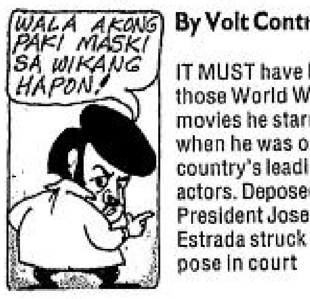
Supreme Court OKs plunder raps against Jinggoy

STORY ON PAGE A2

Erap speaks Japanese?


WALA AKONG PAKI MASKI SA WIKANG HAPON!

By Volt Contreras

IT MUST have been all those World War II movies he starred in when he was one of the country's leading actors. Deposed President Joseph Estrada struck a defiant pose in court

ERAP/A14

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IN *Saturday* SPECIAL

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DOWNEY

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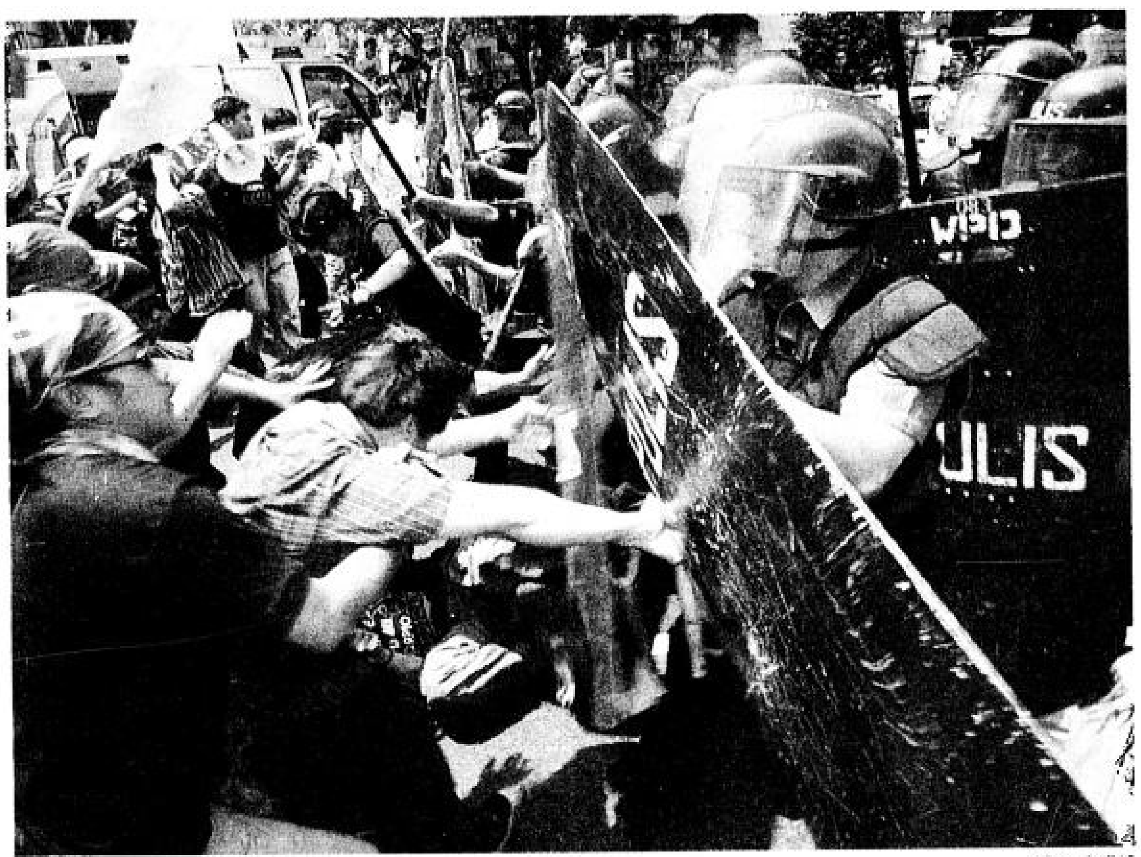
Ransom talks ongoing



ERIK ARAZAS

DRY RUN FOR MAY 1?
Pro-Estrada supporters calling themselves the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice clash with police during a picket at the Supreme Court to carry on their idol's campaign against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban, Antonio Carpio and the newly-named Justice Renato Corona.

EDWIN BACASMAS

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD
Of course, Renato Corona and Maria Alicia A. Martinez are in a jovial mood at the Palace before they take their oath on Friday as new justices of the Supreme Court.

Negotiations for Burnhams monitored by White House

WASHINGTON—US-monitored negotiations are under way for the release of the two American missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham, who have been held hostage by Abu Sayyaf bandits for nearly a year, senior US officials said.

The officials said Thursday that the negotiations were being conducted by a group known to the bandits and that the talks were at a delicate stage. The negotiators were not identified.

The discussions involved possible payments of several hundred thousand dollars and other considerations, said the officials, who asked not to be named. One official said the highest levels at the White House, intelligence, and law enforcement agencies were monitoring the negotiations.

"There has been some progress and activity as recent as today," the official said.

They also said they were encouraged by evidence that the Burnhams were still alive.

The Abu Sayyaf, a Moro extremist group with links to Sept. 11 suspect Osama bin Laden, is holding Ediborah Yap, a Filipino nurse, aside from the Burnhams of Wichita, Kansas.

Martin's brother, Doug Burnham of Rose Hill, Kansas, said the family had not heard anything about negotiations late Thursday.

The negotiations, first reported by The' Washington

RANSOM/A14

Ferry survivors: Where's that help?

Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Philip C. Tubeza
in Manila

LUCENA CITY—Having lost track of one of her children during the tumultuous rush out of MV Maria Carmela, Emily Barana clung on to her 4-year-old daughter Rebecca throughout the entire ordeal—even after Rebecca had already lost her life.

Barana recounted her harrowing story to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday, when the President visited the victims and their survivors in Lucena City. Barana's ordeal mirrored the nightmare the victims are living through: having given up on receiving assistance from Montenegro Shipping Lines, they continued to hope. "I've lost my wife and my 10-month-old baby. They are still missing. Where is Montenegro? They were all over the radio and television declaring their intent to help, but where is that help?" Richard Lim told the INQUIRER.

As of presstime, the death toll had risen to 26, with all but three bodies identified. But the number of missing—as many as 43, as few as 13—continued to be a matter of speculation.

Lim showed to newsmen a letter signed by at least 40 persons, asking the President to conduct an investigation into the alleged negligence of the shipping line.

At the Quezon Memorial Hospital, in one of the wards occupied by the survivors, the stench of burnt human flesh overwhelmed the humid room. Salvacion Peñales, the sister of two survivors who suffered facial burns, had nothing but cruel words for Montenegro.

"We're now on our second day of stay here, but not even a shadow of the Montenegro staff has shown up to even console the victims. Where are the medicines, the food, the kind

FERRY/A14

Int'l media group pleads for Arlyn

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

EVEN as the military has launched an all-out search and rescue operation for the missing journalist, Arlyn de la Cruz, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontières-RSF) has urged the Philippine government to negotiate for her release.

Reporters Without Borders defends imprisoned journalists and press freedom throughout the world, as well as the right to inform the public and to be informed, in accordance with Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In an e-mail from the Asia-Pacific Desk of its international secretariat, RSF expressed concern for De la Cruz after her kidnapping had been confirmed, the e-mail said.

De la Cruz, who has been missing for the past three months, had sent word to friends in Manila that she was being held hostage in Jolo by dissident integrees (into the Armed Forces) of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

The INQUIRER printed a handwritten letter from her on April 8 saying she had been kidnapped in January by armed rebels.

De la Cruz was last seen on Jan. 19, 2002 at the Orchid Garden Hotel in Zamboanga.

INT'L/A14

Swiss court keeps crony funds frozen

By Donna S. Cueto

THE ZURICH Appeals Court has granted the Philippine government request to continue the freeze on $17 million in Swiss deposits of three Marcos cronies, and ordered the Swiss banks holding them not to make any fund transfers.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) got this bit of good news yesterday when it received a letter from its Swiss lawyer, Martin Kurer, that the Zurich court had accepted the appeal it filed last Wednesday.

The freeze on the combined Swiss deposits of former Marcos Energy Minister Geronimo Velasco, his nephew Alfredo de Borja, and his secretary Carmencita Clavecilla will remain in effect while the appeal of the Philippine government is being heard by the Zurich Court of Appeals.

The PCGG filed on Feb. 6 and March 12 the appeal questioning the decision of Dieter Jann, Zurich district attorney and investigating magistrate, lifting the freeze on the crony accounts. Jann issued the ruling on the grounds of "absolute prescription" of the Marcos crony cases, and of alleged lack of criminal evidence on the nature of the funds.

SWISS/A4

EDWIN BACASMAS

TIGLAO: Not valedictory, not dereliction of duty, not abandonment of the President. But his reasons for taking off are still being suspected.

Dante Ang's hand in Tiglao 'leave' seen

By Juliet L. Javellana
and Carlito Pablo

RIGOBERTO Tiglao wants to leave Malacañang because he is press secretary in title only and it is Dante Ang who is *de facto* head of the government's information machinery, a source close to Malacañang told the INQUIRER.

But Ang, who is President Macapagal-Arroyo's personal publicist, is not to blame because she "likes him," the source said, adding: "Tiglao is like a basketball coach who can't choose his players. *Matino yan, kaya aalis* (He's a decent man—that's why he's leaving)."

The source said Tiglao had found that Ang's appointees were occupying all the positions in his turf, including the government-sequestered television stations and newspapers.

"He has no power, only a title," the source said.

DANTE/A15

'Powell can come; nothing will change'

RAMALLAH—When Colin Powell arrives in the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah Saturday to meet a besieged Yasser Arafat, those Palestinians who dare come to their windows will view the US secretary of state with a large dose of skepticism.

"They take us for a bunch of kids, giving us candy. Now everything is destroyed, Powell can come and nothing will change," said Mohammed Abu Diab, a 26-year-old engineer taking advantage of a rare lifting of the Israeli-imposed curfew to hurry out and buy some provisions.

"And first of all, where is (Powell) going to meet Arafat? In his destroyed office, where there's no water, electricity, aides or documents," he said.

Like most residents of Ramallah, which was taken over by Israeli tanks and infantry on March 29 after a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings, Mohammed has severe reservations about the US administration but praise for Arafat, holed up in what remains standing of his bullet-scarred headquarters.

It is in the battered building standing at the center of his ruined headquarters—effectively turned into a prison by the Israeli army—that Arafat could meet Powell on Saturday, although no final arrangements have been made.

"Before, the Palestinian factions were split, but now they are all united behind Arafat," Mohammed said. "The Palestinians will not accept anyone else as their leader. No one else would have his stamina. He'll stay strong and hold out a long time."

POWELL/A4

PRESIDENT no more, Hugo Chavez, after the military rebelled.

Venezuelan president forced to quit

CARACAS, Venezuela—President Hugo Chavez, the former army paratrooper who vowed to dismantle a corrupt democracy and improve the lot of Venezuela's poor, resigned under military pressure after a massive opposition demonstration against his confrontational administration ended in a bloodbath.

Chavez, 47, presented his resignation early Friday to three officers after he was confronted by the military high command at the presidential palace, said the Air Force chief, Gen. Regulo

VENEZUELAN/A15

Second FRONT PAGE

WALA NANG SAGABAL!

SC okays plunder raps vs Jinggoy

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE SUPREME Court yesterday cleared all legal obstacles to the prosecution of Jinggoy Estrada for economic plunder.

The high court upheld the decision of Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to implead the young Estrada as one of the seven co-accused in the plunder complaint against ousted president Joseph Estrada.

The SC ruled, however, that Jinggoy could be charged only with receiving collections amounting to P545 million from the illegal numbers game of "jueteng."

It said Jinggoy could be held liable "only for the acts with which he is charged under sub-paragraph (a) of the Amended Information. His liability cannot extend to the predicate acts in (other) sub-paragraphs."

Sub-paragraph (a) refers to the "predicate act" of receiving, on several instances, money from illegal gambling.

Succeeding sub-paragraphs deal with the other overt, or criminal acts, allegedly committed by the senior Estrada and his co-accused in amassing ill-gotten wealth.

Under the law, a public official can be charged with plunder if he or she uses his office to illegally amass wealth worth at least P50 million through a series of overt or criminal acts.

The SC said Jinggoy could not be "penalized" for the conspiracy entered into by the other accused with the jailed ex-president.

Apart from the Estradas, the government has charged lawyer Edward Serapio, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Yolanda Ricaforte, Delia Rajas, Alma Alfaro and Eluterio Tan.

The high court has already junked Jinggoy's petition to quash the plunder complaint and motion for bail.

In a Feb. 26 resolution, the SC said Jinggoy failed to "show that respondent Sandiganbayan acted without or in excess of jurisdiction or with grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction" in junking his motion to quash.

The SC also refused to rule on the bail issue, saying he should seek this remedy within the Sandiganbayan.

Desierto then filed a motion asking the high court to clarify whether Jinggoy could be impleaded in all the four acts mentioned in the plunder complaint.

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Erap supporters, cops clash at SC

By Philip C. Tubeza

COULD this be a prelude to this year's May 1 celebration?

Supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada and police clashed in front of the Supreme Court building in Manila yesterday after anti-riot cops forcibly dispersed about 50 members of the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Justice and Progress (UMJP) holding a sit-down demonstration.

The UMJP was protesting President Macapagal-Arroyo's recent appointment of Renato Corona and Alicia Martinez as associate justices of the Supreme Court.

They pelted police with rocks after the lawmen dispersed them in accordance with a standing Supreme Court order barring protests in front of its building.

"This is a prelude to May 1. They're testing the waters," said Supt. Manolo Martinez, Ermita police station chief. "They had prepared rocks and bottles for throwing."

Estrada supporters on May 1 last year attacked Malacañang Palace with the intent of overthrowing the administration of President Macapagal. They were driven back after police and military forces engaged them in daylong pitched battles.

They are expected to mark the anniversary of that assault next month, as the uprising they call Edsa Tres.

UMDJ spokesperson Ver Eustaquio said 20 of their members were hurt in the melee that erupted on Padre Faura St. at around 10:30 a.m.

The protesters were sitting on the pavement but the police dispersed them using truncheons and shields. The Philippine Star photographer Edd Gumban was hit in the back while trying to prevent policemen from beating up one of the protesters.

Eustaquio said the police did not even try to talk to them but just pounced on them as they were peacefully conducting their rally.

"This is aimed at making it appear that the pro-Erap elements are out to create mayhem and to discredit whatever just grievances the masses have against the Macapagal regime," said Eustaquio at a press conference yesterday.

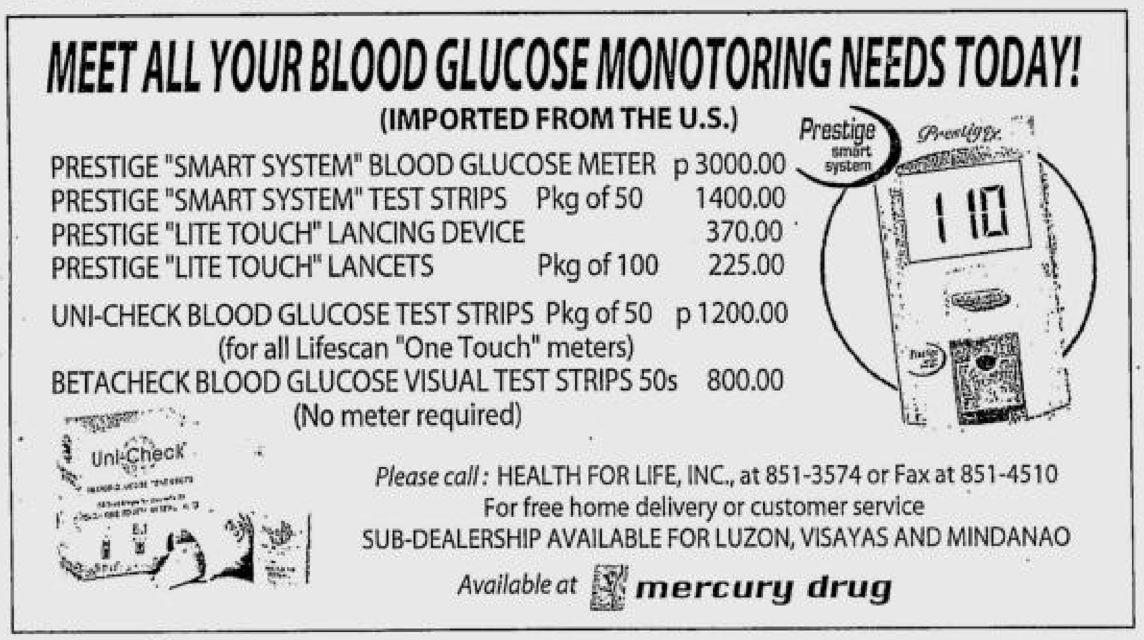
"What took place was (part of) a conditioning process for the usurper regime preparatory to the implementation of a fascist plan to round up leaders and mass organizers of the snowballing anti-Macapagal movement," he added.

The man at the center of the storm, meanwhile, urged his supporters yesterday not to resort to violence during rallies planned in the next few weeks.

Speaking to reporters during an appearance at the Sandiganbayan where he is facing perjury charges, Estrada said: "The people have freedom of assembly and freedom of expression. I just want to call upon them to keep it peaceful and not to resort to violence."

But his call apparently fell on deaf ears.

Still, Estrada, who was ousted in a popular revolt in January last year, said he was thankful for whatever public support he still retained. ***With a Reuters report***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RP-Aussie banana war heats up

SYDNEY—A brawl over bananas between Australia and the Philippines intensified on Friday when North Queensland growers took to the streets to protest the prospect of imports from the Southeast Asian producer.

About 1,000 banana industry workers, growers and townspeople rallied in the tropical northern city of Cairns after driving to town in a convoy of cars and delivery trucks.

"Without the bananas we haven't got a town or a job," said protest organizer Val Currie, who formed the Banana Workers Protest Group last month.

"Something has got to be done to stop imports," she told Reuters by telephone from Cairns during the rally. "They would decimate the local area and cause job losses in the thousands."

The Australian protest followed a threat last week by the Philippines to stop importing Australian dairy products if Australian officials did not complete a quarantine study into imports of Philippine bananas by June 30.

Philippine Agriculture Secretary Ernesto Ordoñez said in Manila that importers of dairy products had committed to look elsewhere for supplies if Australia failed to complete its import risk analysis (IRA).

Australia exported about A$370 million worth of milk, butter and cheese to the Philippines in 2000/01, easily its biggest export line to the country. The Philippines sees Australia as a potential US$300 million a year annual market for its bananas.

Sen. Loren Legarda also last week accused Australia of conducting a smear campaign against the country by accusing its bananas of being rife with diseases.

Spokespeople for Australia's Agriculture and Trade Ministers kept their silence on Friday on the prospect of a trade war with the Philippines over the long-simmering dispute.

But officials said they would not be rushed with the IRA.

"The import risk analysis is proceeding and as for timing that's a matter for discussion with the Philippines," a spokesman for food trade safety authority Biosecurity Australia said.

"We're not saying anything about whether it would be finished by June 30," he said. The study has been in progress since 2000. *Reuters*

Mideast fighting threatens RP—Camacho

By Clarissa S. Batino and Blanche S. Rivera

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday he fears the raging conflict in the Middle East would lead to more fuel price increases and force the evacuation of close to a million Filipino workers in the region.

"The clash between Israel and Palestine has strong repercussions for all countries, including the Philippines. We would be affected on two fronts: In terms of pump prices that have started to surge and the welfare of our overseas workers," the finance chief said.

He said officials of the Departments of Labor and Employment and Foreign Affairs are preparing contingency measures for the evacuation of OFWs in the Middle East.

Last year, the government prepared to evacuate OFWs from the region, after it was feared the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States would lead to a large-scale conflict in the Arab world.

Filipino workers overseas contribute a healthy $6 billion yearly to the nation's coffers.

Evacuating those in the Middle East would not only make a dent in dollar remittances to the country but also jack up local unemployment figures since the economy would not be able to absorb the returnees.

Camacho also noted that the Department of Energy was keenly monitoring crude oil prices.

An increase in fuel prices would tend to raise the inflation rate in the future, especially if this was followed by hikes in transport fares and food prices.

At the same time, the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has ordered labor recruiters to come up with their own contingency plans to evacuate their workers in Israel and Palestine in case the situation there worsens.

POEA chief Rosalinda Baldoz mandated all licensed manning and placement agencies to submit a list of the workers they placed in Israel and Palestine.

In an April 10 advisory, Baldoz advised the recruitment firms to "maintain a ready inventory of the workers under (their) liability, including their respective sites of work."

Baldoz also directed the agencies to map out employer-based contingency plans and submit their proposals to the Assistance and Welfare Division of the POEA.

RP seaman with 8 knives faces 10 years in US jail

By N.Bordadora

HOMEWARD-bound Filipino seaman Mariano Condat only made it as far as the New Orleans airport last week where a random search by US authorities turned up several utility knives in his carry-on bag.

Condat, 40, had spent one month at sea. He was on the next leg of his journey home to the Philippines.

Instead, Condat was indicted yesterday (Thursday in the US) in Jefferson Parish on one count of trying to board an aircraft while in possession of knives. He reportedly faces up to 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine.

The prosecutor has recommended bail of $5,000 for his release to the custody of the honorary Philippine consul to New Orleans, Cielo Martinez.

Martinez quickly informed the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila of the need to raise the money.

Condat was about to board American Airlines Flight 1139 on April 4 when he was approached by an FBI agent for a random check.

Allegedly found in his carry-on satchel were a utility knife with a 9-centimeter blade, four other 9-centimeter blades, a knife with a 7-centimeter blade, another with a 3-centimeter blade, and a 15-centimeter hacksaw blade, US Attorney Jim Letten said.

Condat reportedly was not trying to hide his possession of the knives as these were found quickly during the search.

Indicted with Condat was an Indian national, Albert Silvarian, 42, who arrested at the same airport on March 31 also for carrying knives in his briefcase, the Associated Press reported.

Silvarian, a homeward-bound seaman like Condat, passed through the airport's major security checkpoints without screeners finding any of the knives in his bag. At the gate, a random search turned up five knives and two scissors. *With an AP report*

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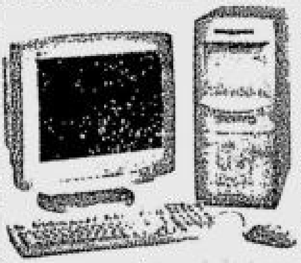

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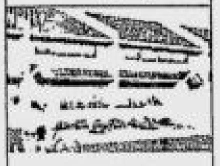

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Israelis, Palestinians fighting media war, too

JERUSALEM—After the horrific fight to the finish between Israelis and Palestinians over the Jenin refugee camp, the media battle is now underway over what really happened.

Palestinians recite a laundry list of Israeli offenses: massacres, summary executions and mass graves during the week-long fighting in the squalid town, long dubbed a haven of suicide bombers by Israel.

Israelis have hit back, charging that the Palestinians are making up stories for propaganda purposes. The army says those Palestinians died with gun in hand. If innocents die, it is an accident—a sad fact of war, the army says.

As proof of the campaign's vicious character, Israel points to its own pile of dead: 23 soldiers struck down in Jenin, including 13 in a coordinated ambush and suicide bombing Tuesday.

But Israel's ban on reporters inside the war zone has fueled the rumor mill, leaving the two sides to pounce on the seven-day battle in Jenin, which ended Wednesday, and twist the story to their own advantage in the media.

Leading Palestinian moderate Saeb Erakat said Wednesday that 500 Palestinians had died across the West Bank in Israel's offensive. However, Israel acknowledges only 200 Palestinians killed.

On Thursday, Palestinians said the army had committed "Nazi massacres" and "terrorist crimes."

An army spokesperson, Lt. Col. Olivier Rafowicz, estimated on Thursday that about 100 Palestinians were killed in the Jenin battles.

"There is no doubt that the Palestinians intend to mount a gigantic propaganda operation and make people believe this is a new Sabra and Shatila," Israeli government spokesperson Emmanuel Nachshon told Agence France Presse.

He was referring to the 1982 Sabra and Shatila camp massacres in Beirut, where between 800 and 1,500 Palestinian refugees were slaughtered by Israel's Christian militia allies during the Jewish state's invasion of Lebanon.

The massacres marked the low point in Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's career. Sharon, then Israel's defense minister, was forced to resign from the government because of the affair, which stained Israel's reputation globally.

Political damage

The current Israeli government is worried by the Palestinian attempt to convince the world that the campaign in the West Bank, dubbed "Operation Defensive Wall," is not Sabra and Shatila revisited.

"There is a risk of real political damage," one official said on condition of anonymity. "What is happening here has enormous repercussions, and if their shot succeeds, it will be a catastrophe."

Israel has already been flooded by a deluge of criticism on the world stage as well as demonstrations in several countries, not only the Arab world. Notably, the European Union's Parliament has threatened sanctions.

As a countermeasure, Israeli embassies have been supplied with a list of arguments to refute Palestinian charges.

The Palestinian human rights organization LAW has said that people saw the army digging holes where soldiers later threw bodies in.

But in an example of Israel's swift moves to defuse Palestinian charges, an army spokesperson said any digging by bulldozers was intended to destroy dozens of underground laboratories for explosives.

Likewise, Nachshon said Israel wanted to hand over the dead to Palestinian groups but that the Palestinians had refused because they wanted to be able to display the bodies "before the cameras."

However, the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, which is affiliated with the International Committee of the Red Cross, says it has not received permission from the army to enter the Jenin refugee camp.

The United Nations Relief Works Agency, which tends to the Palestinian refugee population, said Thursday that Israel continued to block its medical teams and ambulances from entering the Jenin refugee camp. *Reports from AFP, AP*

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'Powell can come; nothing will change'

From page A1

Powell was to meet Friday with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and separately with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in a bid to end the worst Middle East crisis in a decade.

Israel is still pressing its West Bank sweep, saying it had rounded up some 4,000 Palestinians. It also said the last dozen hardcore Palestinian militants had surrendered in the refugee camp of Jenin, the scene of the most vicious fighting in the two-week-old military offensive.

Powell flew in Thursday from Jordan, his last stop on a tour of Arab capitals and Spain where he marshaled strong international support for his drive to speed the withdrawal of Israeli troops and broker a ceasefire.

Sharon has rebuffed US demands for a halt to the West Bank blitz.

Arafat took a hard line Thursday night, pledging that the Palestinians were willing to die to defend Jerusalem.

"We will defend the Arab nation. We will defend the holy Christian and Muslim sites and we will die defending Jerusalem," Arafat said, addressing by cell phone a 2,000-strong rally at Cairo's Coptic cathedral.

Bush a cowboy

"Why did Powell wait almost two weeks to get here? Why didn't he hurry over?" asked Jamela Bakhur, who said she had spent half her life in the United States.

"I don't think (US President George W.) Bush realizes what he has done. He's a cowboy. In any case, Ariel Sharon doesn't listen to him."

"Powell's visit doesn't inspire me with much hope. It's Sharon who controls everything," said Tala, a 17-year-old student who has not been able to attend classes for two weeks or even study at home for worrying about the volatile situation.

The Israeli occupation, apart from leaving an as yet unknown number of dead, has also wrought havoc on Ramallah's infrastructure and commerce.

"Powell's intervention leave me cold," said Toni Khuri, a Palestinian Christian. But he said that "without western pressure, the Israeli's won't leave."

Fawzi Nadji, a professor at Bir Zeit university north of Ramallah, said he hoped the Americans would "put enough pressure on the Israeli government."

"Only the United States can exert any influence, but Powell has to come up with something new," he said.

Nadji congratulated Arab leaders, who had met Powell since he left Washington Sunday, for standing firmly behind Arafat as the only Palestinian leader, despite Sharon's attempts to sideline him.

But Bakhur hit an ominous note, saying that the powerful US-equipped Israel army would not leave Ramallah "without finishing with Arafat."

Mission impossible?

Powell has denied he was on a "mission impossible."

His first task will be to persuade a truculent Sharon to roll back the West Bank campaign that Israelis say has left most major towns under their control and more than 200 Palestinians dead.

Taking heart in the Israeli announcement that its troops had withdrawn from some Palestinian villages, Powell said in Amman that Bush had "noted some progress but wants to see more progress."

Powell also hoped to revive stalled talks on security measures proposed by US Central Intelligence Agency chief George Tenet and a longer-term peace blueprint developed by a panel chaired by former US Sen. George Mitchell.

"We look forward to move aggressively with respect to political action," he said in Jordan. "The political process has to be accelerated and extended upon in order to show the Palestinian people that there is hope out there for them to have their own state side by side with Israel."

But Powell appeared to be on a collision course with Sharon, who insisted that Israel was in a "war of survival" and could not afford to call off its Operation Defensive Wall on the West Bank.

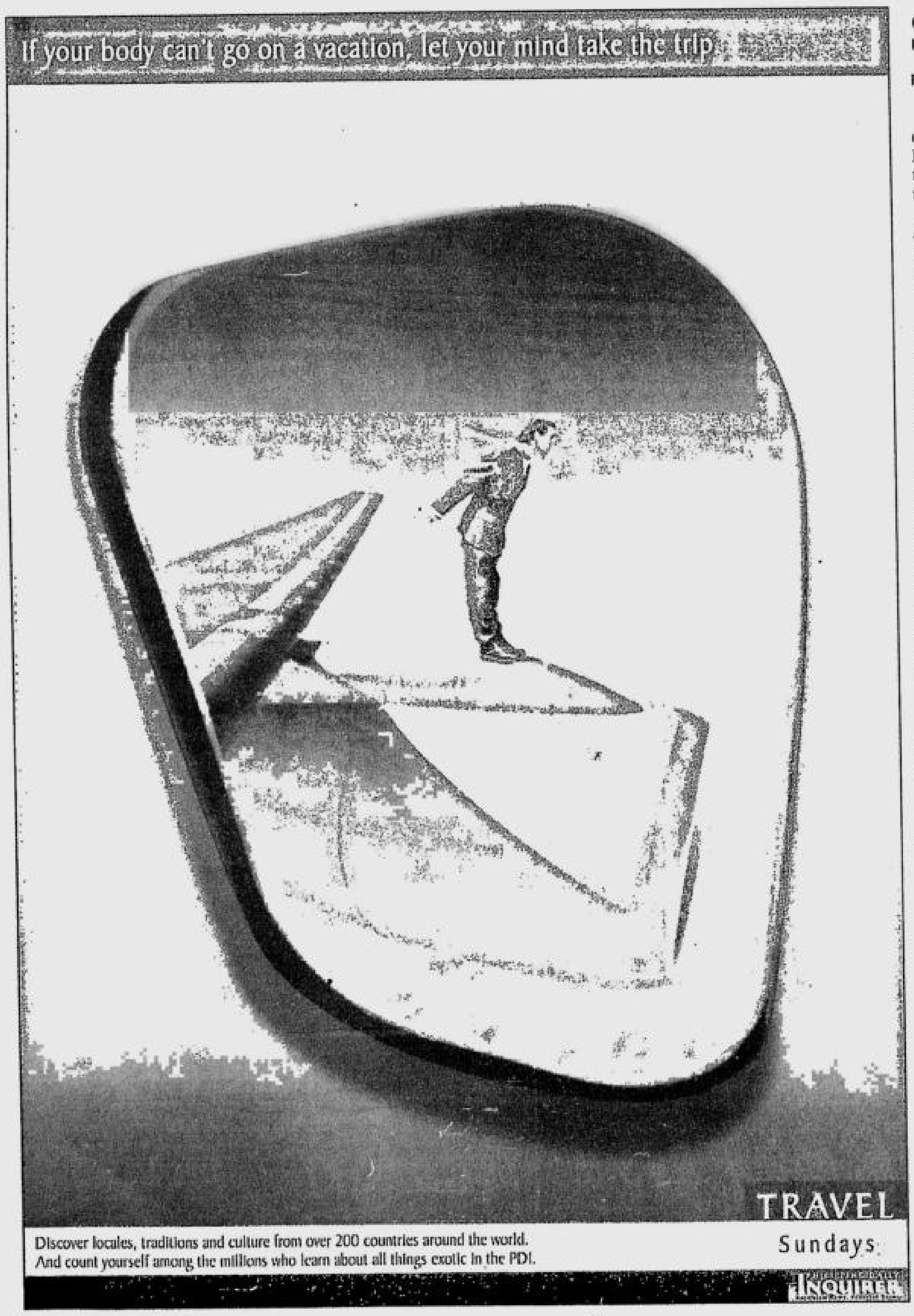
Although Israel says it has withdrawn from more than two dozen towns and villages, Sharon said Thursday the Israeli army would remain in others.

"I've warned the Americans that the Israeli army will not withdraw from Bethlehem, Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah until all the terrorists there have surrendered," he said.

Sharon also warned that the army could move back into towns they have quit in the West Bank "if terrorist activities resume."

Siege a crime

Speaking by cell phone, Arafat told a packed Abbassiya Cathedral in Cairo that he would defend sacred Holy Land sites in the face of Israeli aggression and called the siege on the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem a "crime." *Reports from AP, AFP*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Swiss court keeps crony . . .

From page A1

Jann, after denying the PCGG motion for reconsideration on March 12, claimed that the PCGG's only recourse was to file an appeal with the Zurich Court of Appeals. The deadline for the filing of the appeal was yesterday, April 12.

Kurer reported to the PCGG that the "Zurich Appeals Court has granted the request for interim measures and ordered the bank to refrain from doing any transfers with immediate effect."

Kurer said the defendants, the Marcos cronies, could still oppose the ruling. "However, it is in force at the present time," he said.

His letter was faxed to PCGG Commissioner Ruben Carranza and PCGG lawyer Arlene Mendoza. A copy of the letter was also sent to PCGG Chair Haydee Yorac yesterday.

According to Jann, he lifted the freeze on the deposits of Velasco at the Union Bancaire Privee in Zurich and Geneva, which amounted to $15,519,972 as of Dec. 31, 2001. He also lifted the freeze on the Swiss deposits of Clavecilla at the same bank amounting to $551,544, as well as the $921,532 in deposits of De Borja.

In his final order on Feb. 6, Jann claimed that the documents submitted by the PCGG did not indicate "any criminal behavior, which will make the collection of the currently frozen assets possible according to Swiss law."

Undeclared assets

"The statement of facts merely says that the assets are undeclared assets which is why they are said to have been acquired illegally," Jann said.

"There is no concrete information concerning a criminal background, which will be subject to mutual judicial assistance. In particular, it is no longer maintained that Velasco illegally deprived the Philippine State of the money by means of fraud, embezzlement, abuse of official authority, or bribery," he said.

Jann said that if there was a "lack of facts calling for judicial assistance, a freeze on assets cannot be justified. Therefore, the frozen assets shall be released." He then stopped the mutual assistance request of the Philippine government.

When the PCGG filed its motion for reconsideration, Jann likewise denied it, this time claiming that the period for waiting for the Marcos crony cases to move had already prescribed.

While accepting the statements of the PCGG that Velasco transferred commissions of the Philippine National Oil Co. (PNOC) to his "private accounts," Jann used a new reason to lift the freeze—that of "absolute prescription."

"Since the criminal acts are dating before 1985, the absolute prescription, under Swiss law, has taken place," he said. "Therefore, the mutual assistance needs to be denied because of absolute prescription," he said.

Jann had earlier said that his Feb. 6 order, lifting the freeze on the Marcos crony accounts, and his March 12 decision upholding his Feb. 6 order, would not be in effect until April 12.

In his March 12 decision, he said it would be up to the Zurich Court of Appeals to decide whether his decision unfreezing the accounts would be enforced after April 12.

Errors

Yorac pointed out that the Philippine government's motion with the Zurich Court of Appeals pointed out the errors in Jann's rulings.

First, she said it was erroneous for Jann to say that there were no pending criminal actions against the respondents, since the PCGG already filed as early as December 2001 forfeiture cases against Velasco, De Borja and Clavecilla. Forfeiture cases are considered criminal in nature by the Swiss authorities.

Second, the position of the Philippine government is that the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies does not prescribe, according to Carranza.

It was therefore wrong for Jann to cite the Swiss law on prescription for the mutual assistance request of the Philippine government. "This was not a new request. This is just a continuation of an old Imac request," he said.

Mutual assistance

Imac refers to the International Mutual Assistance on Criminal Matters, which the Philippine and Swiss governments are invoking as they try to recover the ill-gotten wealth that the Marcoses and their cronies had stashed in Switzerland.

The PCGG included in its appeal brief last Wednesday, the subpoenas issued by the Department of Justice (DOJ) on Velasco, De Borja, and Clavecilla and other Marcos cronies with pending forfeiture cases.

The other Marcos cronies who were issued subpoenas were Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, and spouses Fe Roa and Ignacio Gimenez.

The Gimenez spouses deposited with Swiss banks $3.2 million and 3.093 million in Deutschemark. Alfredo "Bejo" Romualdez, brother of former First Lady Imelda Marcos, also kept at least $979,000 in Swiss deposits as of 1986, according to the PCGG.

The subpoenas for the April 19 hearing were issued by the DOJ on Tuesday. The PCGG filed the forfeiture cases with the DOJ on March 18, after the Office of the Ombudsman refused to accept the cases, citing Republic Act No. 6770.

Desierto said that his office had no authority to conduct a preliminary investigation of the forfeiture petitions filed by the PCGG if this involved ill-gotten wealth amassed before Feb. 25, 1986.

The PCGG first filed the forfeiture petitions with the Office of the Ombudsman in December last year. They reached the Office of the Ombudsman's records in January. On Feb. 18, Desierto rejected them, claiming his office had no jurisdiction to investigate the cases. He referred the PCGG to the DOJ

Benipayo still Comelec chief–Palace

By Dona Pazzibugan and Blanche S. Rivera

ALFREDO Benipayo is still the Commission on Elections chairman, Malacañang said yesterday as it denied reports that it had replaced Benipayo with Benjamin Abalos, who heads the Metro Manila Development Authority.

"Abalos himself has denied that he has an appointment. We're backing up Benipayo. The President wants him confirmed as soon as possible," Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

He said he did not know how such news got around.

A member of Benipayo's staff at the Comelec called up Malacañang yesterday to verify the report but Tiglao dismissed the rumors.

In a statement, the Comelec quoted Tiglao as saying: "Somebody must have proposed it to (Abalos) and he thought it was for real."

Another Palace official hinted, however, that Abalos was being eyed for the Comelec top post.

"He will be a good addition to the Comelec. He's a good man," presidential adviser on political affairs Joey Rufino said in a chance interview.

But when asked if Abalos' appointment was already being discussed, Rufino said: "I can't say."

A source said that Abalos was also being considered for appointment as transportation secretary but that the former Mandaluyong mayor prefers to go to Comelec.

"Maybe this is a trial balloon. The rumors seem to be coming from Abalos himself. I don't know what his purpose is," said the source who asked not to be named.

The President re-appointed Benipayo and commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason after the bicameral Commission on Appointment bypassed them again before Congress went on recess last month.

CA members are reluctant to confirm their appointments because of the fierce infighting between the three Macapagal appointees and the four Estrada appointees.

In an attempt at reconciliation, Ms Macapagal invited the latter four—Luzviminda Tancangco, Ralph Lantion, Rufino Javier and Mehol Sadain—to dinner last month.

Apparently, she failed as the rival camps are still fighting, this time over the registration for the upcoming Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Tiglao said that Ms Macapagal remained confident that Benipayo and the two commissioners allied with him—Borra and Tuason—would successfully hurdle the CA confirmation hearings even after being bypassed several times.

Benipayo's chief of staff, Caridad Walse-Lutero, said that Benipayo, who was due to arrive last night from a series of consultations on the absentee voting bill in Europe and the United States, has been advised of the news regarding his Comelec post.

"This is not a surprise to him. He heard of the rumors last month, but they were never confirmed," Lutero said.

She said the rumors were already going around even during the reconciliation meeting with the Tancangco camp on March 11, which was initiated by the political parties and leaders of Congress.

It came as a pleasant surprise, therefore, when the reappointment letter dated March 14 and signed by the President was faxed to Benipayo's office in the same week, Lutero said.

The confirmation of Benipayo, Borra and Tuason is facing stiff opposition from Tancangco, Sadain, Lantion and Javier, mainly over their conflicting positions on the poll body's planned modernization program.

Palace braces for May 1 rallies

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DESPITE mounting protests, Malacañang is refusing to back away from its decision declaring May 1, Labor Day, a working day. Instead the Palace is bracing for the usual May 1 protest rallies.

Labor groups have vowed to push through with Labor Day demonstrations even though their members will be required to report for work that day.

"Security-wise, we don't feel it will be a big problem," said Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao yesterday. He said the police are taking care of the usual security preparations.

The Palace moved the Labor Day holiday to April 29, a Monday, purportedly to let workers enjoy another three-day weekend in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's "holiday economics" designed to boost domestic tourism.

But for Sen. Blas Ople, a former labor secretary, moving Labor Day from May 1 to April 29 is a "big insult to the Philippine trade union movement and a mockery of the dignity of labor."

Ople chided the President for "rearranging" the commemoration of Labor Day "in the name of a dubious holiday economics program."

Ople said Ms Macapagal has "desecrated a historic day sacred to the free workers of the entire world."
With Rocky Nazareno and Gerald Lacuarta

NEWSBRIEFS

Nur arraigned next week

Detained Muslim leader Nur Misuari, who is facing charges for leading a short-lived rebellion last year, will be arraigned next week at a police camp in Laguna, the justice department said Friday. The arraignment of Misuari and his seven accomplices, will be held in Fort Santo Domingo in Laguna province and will be attended by Justice Secretary Hernando Perez and chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, the department said. A special court room was constructed in the police camp for the trial due to concerns that members of Misuari's old rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front might try to disrupt the proceedings. Misuari's lawyer, Arturo Lim, has asked the court to cancel the arraignment because he hopes the Supreme Court will still reconsider his request the trial be held in the mainly-Muslim southern island of Jolo, where Misuari staged his rebellion in November. *AFP*

Doronila books a hit

Amando Doronila's "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" and "Between Fires: Fifteen Perspective on the Estrada Crisis" made it to the National Bookstore's best-seller list for non-fiction for the month of April. Both books are co-publishing projects of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Anvil Publishing Inc. Since the launch in February, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" has sold close to five thousand copies while "Between Fires" has sold close to three thousand copies in National Bookstore and Powerbooks. Also on this month's bestseller list is Baking Made EC, a collection of treasure cakes and bread recipes by INQUIRER contributor Eufemia `EC' Estrada.

Ex-Meralco prexy dies

PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange director Mario Camacho died yesterday at the age of 67. Reports said Camacho suffered from excessive bleeding following a rupture of a blood vessel in his stomach. He was rushed to Asian Hospital in Alabang, where he died. Camacho was president of Manila Electric Company from 1979 to 1986 and was president of University of Asia and the Pacific from 1997 to 2000. *Elena R. Torrjos*

Museum collection talk

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL collection of the National Museum will be the featured subject of a lecture today, April 13, at 10 a.m. at the Kaisa Heritage Center (Bahay Tsinoy), corner Anda and Cabildo in Intramuros. Angel P. Bautista, the head of the museum's zooarchaeological division, will give the talk which is part of the Lectures 2002 series sponsored jointly by the National Museum, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Museum Foundation of the Philippines. Bautista was trained in archaeology at Aix-en-Provence, France, and has done extensive fieldwork in the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, Italy and France. Registration begins at 9.30 a.m. Call Jing Pascual at 8130771 for further information.

UST Journ '92 reunion

THE AB Journalism Class '92 of the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Arts and Letters, will hold a reunion on April 20, Saturday, 5 p.m., at No. 4 Marilag St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City. For details, call Eyna Villar (0917-530-2433) or Ollie Quiniquini (0917-844-3170).

March bad time for survey–Tiglao

By Carlito Pablo

IT WAS a bad time for surveys, Malacañang has said by way of explaining President Macapagal-Arroyo's falling approval ratings as shown by the most recent Social Weather Stations survey.

"March is not the very best of times to conduct a poll," Press Secretary Rigoberto Tiglao said yesterday.

The season follows the post-Christmas months of January and February and people generally don't feel upbeat because "their pockets are empty," explained Tiglao.

Also, in March there are a many new graduates who are not sure about their future, he said.

The President's net satisfaction rating dropped 11 points to 16 in March from a record high of 27 in November.

Tiglao did not mention a Pulse Asia survey conducted in Metro Manila, also in March, showing Ms Macapagal's approval rating increasing to 26 from 23 last December.

Tiglao claimed that the Palace's own informal survey had predicted that the President's approval ratings would fall during the first quarter because of the reasons he cited.

A net rating of +16 is actually "very good" because it did not deviate much from Ms Macapagal's previous ratings, which ranged from a low of 15 to 25, he said.

Though Ms Macapagal's image was not the problem, Tiglao said the President's media advisers have already got a handle on her communication problems and they are instituting "subtle changes" in strategy.

These include, among other things, giving the President a "more direct link with the people" through her weekly radio interviews.

Solon stops sheriff from seizing fashion designer's property

TENSIONS rose at the house of couturier Aureo Alonso after a Nueva Ecija congressman tried to stop a Manila court sheriff from confiscating some properties of the fashion designer who has been sued for non-payment of debts by a businesswoman.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Raul Villareal and his bodyguards allegedly tried to stop a court sheriff from implementing a writ of attachment issued by Manila Judge Carolina Rivera-Colasito against Alonso late yesterday afternoon.

The judge issued the order after businesswoman Virginia Malolos charged Alonso with failing to pay her back P10 million.

Confiscating the designer's properties would ensure that he would be able to pay the complainant should the court decide against him. The case is still ongoing.

Alonso was not home when the sheriff went to his house on J. Bacobo Street in Malate.

Villareal arrived as the sheriff and his associates were taking out some of Alonso's belongings and allegedly tried to stop them.

To avoid conflict, the court officers agreed to leave with some of the property that they had already taken, said lawyer Dioscoro Timtiman Jr., Malolos' counsel who was with the sheriff's team.

The team managed to take some decorative lamps and furnishings from the house. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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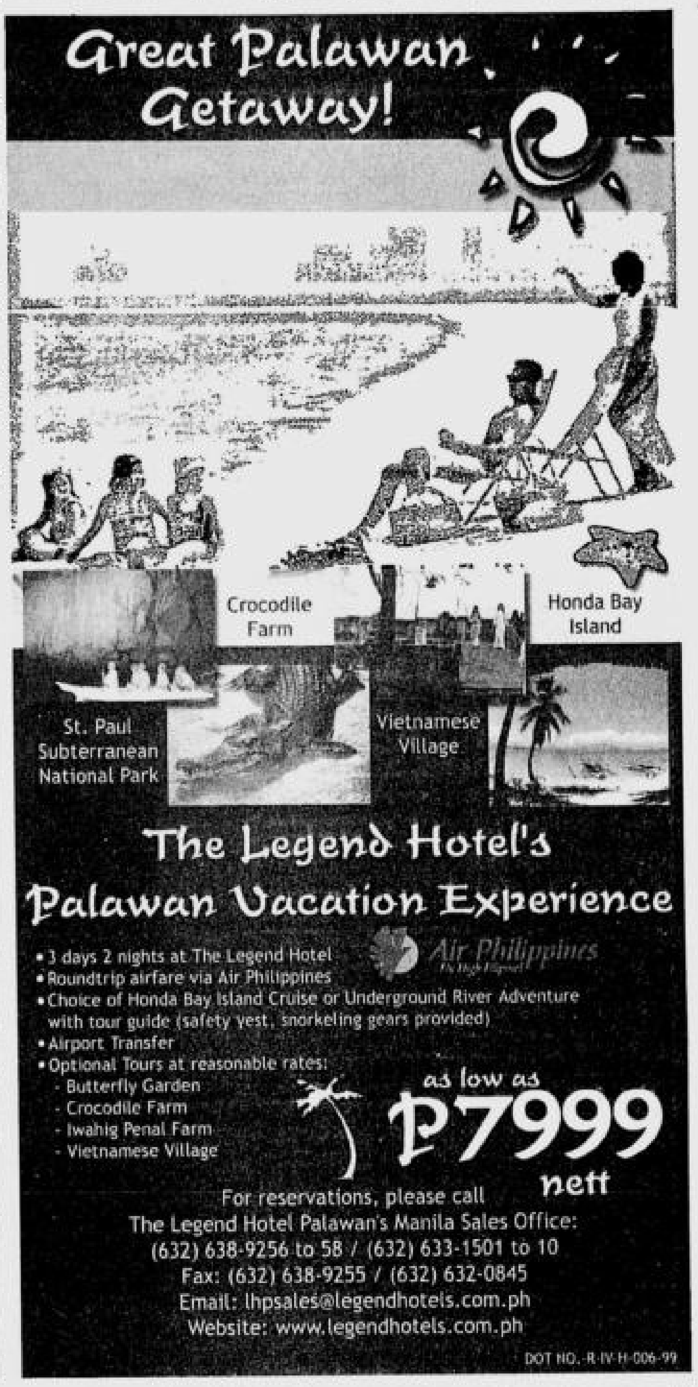
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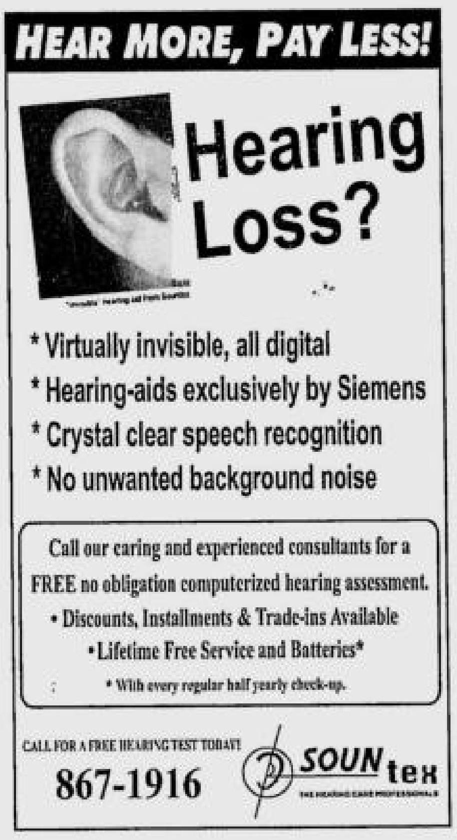
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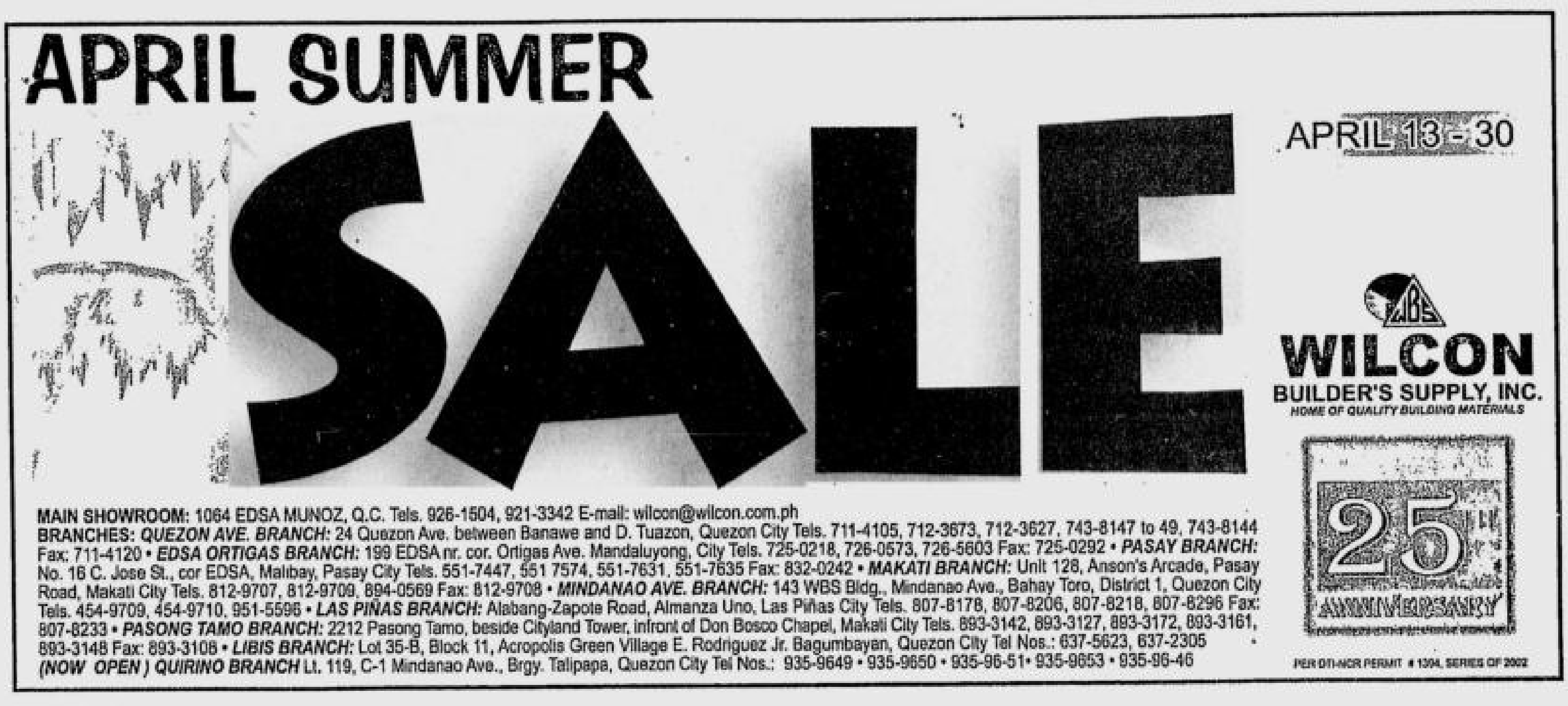
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INQUIRER

Vol. 16 No. 124
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
▪ Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
▪ P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
▪ Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
▪ Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 ▪ Advertising 897-4807
▪ Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

100% soy ink

Publisher **ISAGANI YAMBOT**
Editor in Chief **LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC**
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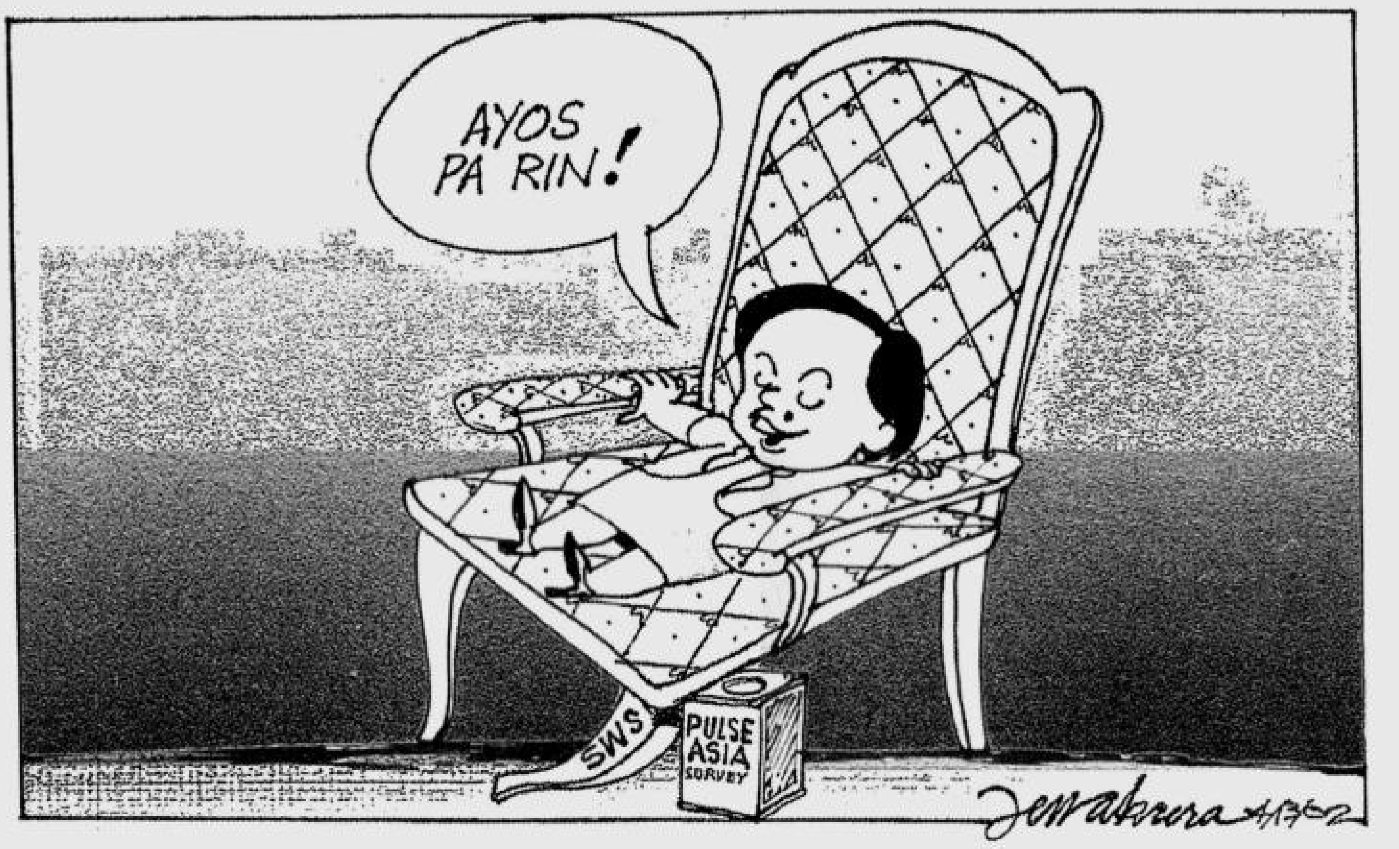


In the dark

EDITORIAL

THERE is this often-heralded dictum in the Lopez Group of Companies: the public good is the noblest intention.

The philosophy has arguably guided the country's most powerful clan into economic and political supremacy. Today, the Lopez Group is into infrastructure, energy, water, telecommunications, broadcasting—industries with public interest written all over them.

In the case of the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco), now embroiled in a controversy due to its proposal seeking to increase power rates, the dictum, however, has apparently taken the back seat.

Meralco, the country's largest power distributor and one of the Lopez family's "crown jewels," has not been too forthcoming in discussing its real intentions for seeking a rate increase, at least in public.

The public good was certainly not in its mind when it filed its March 11 petition to "unbundle" power rates, which it says is in compliance with the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001.

The initial petition meant that some two million residential consumers, who comprise more than half of Meralco's clientele, will bear the biggest rate increases. For instance, residents consuming 100 kilowatt-hours per month (kWh) will be slapped a 25.4 percent increase. On the other hand, industrial customers will be given increases as low as 7.9 percent.

Sensing public uproar, Meralco recalculated its schedule of rate increases and submitted last April 2 a revised application to the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

The "tempered" application slashed the increases on residential consumers by more than half, transferring the burden to industrial clients, on whom it should have been imposed in the first place. But just the same, Meralco has shown that it is willing to pass the burden to ordinary, wage earning consumers, in an effort to protect the industrial sector (the Lopez companies included) from a sudden rise in production costs.

What the public doesn't know (or has simply forgotten), is that Meralco's unbundling application—which also seeks to break down the electric bill into components such as generation, transmission, distribution, supply, and others—is actually on top of a 30 centavo per kWh rate hike petition filed in April 2000. This petition, which is still the subject of ERC deliberations, has been buried by the discussions on the unbundling proposal. All of this, Meralco claims, is meant to increase its return-on-rate-base or RORB, which is a measure of productivity.

The catch is that Meralco admits the unbundling petition will result in an 11 percent RORB when its creditors, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, are only requiring 8 percent for it not to be declared in technical default.

Meralco, which owes the two creditors a combined $200 million, says it won't be able to borrow more money to finance a programmed P6.9 billion in maintenance and operating, expenditures this year if the increase is disapproved.

Still, it has to explain why it is asking for more than 8 percent.

First of all, Meralco's RORB methodology is under question, and in fact awaiting a Supreme Court final ruling on a controversial rollback of power rate increases.

More important, Meralco has to explain why the public always has to bear the costs of mismanagement and miscalculation.

By its own admission, Meralco is now purchasing electricity from five independent power producers (IPPs), including the Lopez-owned electric plant—which are operating below capacity and therefore more expensive than electricity generated by the National Power Corp. (Napocor).

In fact, Napocor plans to penalize Meralco to the tune of P1.2 billion, for purchasing less electricity from the government-owned power-generating firm and the more from the inefficient and expensive IPPs.

While Meralco refuses to pay the penalties, its officials say the firm will have no other choice, again, but to pass the additional costs to the consumers.

This has got to stop. Being a utility firm, Meralco is duty-bound to protect the public at all times, and not the profits of its sister-companies.

Meralco should now realize that being a utility, it has failed miserably in the area of full public disclosure. Until Meralco remedies this omission, not a single centavo for a power rate increase is rightfully deserved. If the increase does come, it will result in a paradox: the public will be in the dark as ever.

The Supreme Court of 1986

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LET me reminisce about a bit of recent Philippine history close to my heart. I refer to the reorganization of the Supreme Court in 1986 following Edsa I and the overthrow of the Marcos dictatorship.

With the establishment of the revolutionary government under President Corazon Aquino on Feb. 25 of that year, the new Cabinet was soon constituted. Vice President Salvador H. Laurel was named the premier member as foreign secretary. The leaders of Edsa I, erstwhile Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and Deputy Chief of Staff Fidel V. Ramos, were appointed as defense secretary and chief of staff of the new Armed Forces of the Philippines, respectively.

The rubber-stamp Batasang Pambansa that had blandly proclaimed Marcos as the winner in the snap election was also exorcised with its disgraced leader. Under the Freedom Constitution, President Aquino was vested with temporary legislative powers pending the election of the new legislature. This was to be formed under the Constitution being framed by the Constitutional Commission headed by former Justice Cecilia Muñoz Palma.

With the executive and legislative powers already in operation, attention now focused on the Supreme Court. There was no question that it had to be changed and cleansed. Before martial law, the Supreme Court was the most respected branch of the government, but it had earned the nation's opprobrium for cravenly submitting to the intimidations and blandishments of the Marcos regime. Its decisions during that timorous era consistently upheld the acts of the despot, reducing it to a spineless "legitimizer" of his abuses. Never in its entire history had it sunk to such shameful depths of obsequiousness as during the reign of Ferdinand Marcos.

The new government now quietly took steps to persuade the incumbent members to resign, for reasons they surely had to understand. Earlier, Justice Nestor B. Alampay had given Edsa I a big moral boost by announcing his resignation from the Supreme Court, to the wild applause of the demonstrators. The other justices soon followed. The revered Justice JBL Reyes took the lead in talking to the justices with his "mandatory" suggestion. He was one person the incumbent members found impossible to refuse.

If there was any thought among them of invoking their constitutional tenure, that idea was quickly abandoned. The tide of popular indignation against them was too strong to defy.

With the old members out of the Court, the way was now open for the selection of the new justices. This was undertaken by a committee that included, as far as I know, Chief Justice Roberto Concepcion, Justice JBL, Justice Muñoz Palma, Justice Claudio Teehankee, and others. Among the several persons mentioned as probable appointees, I myself was never interviewed although I was asked to submit my resumé. To my knowledge (and their credit), none of the "probables" campaigned for their appointment.

After much speculation, Malacañang announced on April 2 its first batch of new appointees, namely, Claudio Teehankee as the new chief justice, and Vicente Abad Santos, another critic of the Marcos administration, as senior associate justice. Five days later came Jose Y. Feria, Jose L. Yap, Marcelo B. Fernan and Andres R. Narvasa. The last group, to complete the original 11-man membership under the Commonwealth Constitution, consisted of Ameurfina M. Herrera, Nestor B. Alampay, Hugo E. Gutierrez Jr., Isagani A. Cruz and Edgardo L. Paras. They were inducted on April 16.

Teehankee, Abad Santos, Herrera, Alampay and Gutierrez were reappointees from the old Court. Paras was promoted from the Intermediate Appellate Court. The rest were drafted directly from the private practitioners, probably to strike a balance between the bench and the bar. Six members of the new Court came from the academe as former law deans: Abad Santos, Feria, Fernan, Narvasa, Cruz and Paras. Some wags would add a seventh: Dindong Teehankee.

Although all the members of the new Supreme Court were appointees of President Aquino, some of them did not hesitate to oppose her. The first time was when I dissented in Sarmiento v. Mison, with Justice Gutierrez joining me. I was crossed out from the Malacañang guest list for that. In Marcos v. Manglapus, involving the dictator's right to return home, she won by a margin of only one vote. In Laurel v. Garcia, nine of us blocked her intended sale of our country's property in Roppongi, Japan, and in Brillantes v. Yorac, we unanimously declared her designation of an acting chair of the Commission on Elections unconstitutional. I was the *ponente* in that case.

Of the original members of the reorganized Supreme Court, five have gone to a still Higher Court: Teehankee, Abad Santos, Alampay, Fernan and Paras. Yap is in the United States and is reportedly in poor health. The rest of us, in varying degrees of retirement, are still relatively active, and Joe Feria says he still plays tennis (but only doubles) at age 85.

We were a congenial group as we faced our task in 1986 on a fresh note of optimism and, yes, idealism too. I look back to that thrilling interlude of my life on the Supreme Court "with the tender grace of a day that is" gone.

The anomaly in the Comelec

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

SHOULD Luz Tancangco be impeached? Before we look at her performance in office, a review of some of the objections to her confirmation as Commission on Elections commissioner is necessary, if only to put her later actions in context.

What were these objections? Mahar Mangahas pointed to (a) her demonstrated incompetence in election research (e.g. she concluded that any filled ballot that left blank the space for the representative was fraudulent; that whenever more than 85 percent of registered voters turned out, there was fraud; that the results for 14 non-randomly chosen precincts in Metro Manila could be extrapolated to cover 100,000 precincts all over the country), citing the proceedings of the UP symposium; (b) her unfounded prejudice toward the Namfrel (her defective research led her to conclude that Namfrel was responsible for wholesale fraud); and (c) her apparent conviction, despite objective assessments of her work to the contrary by the academic community, that she was correct.

In a subsequent column, Mangahas wrote that in the course of Tancangco's response to his charges, she "name-dropped" several colleagues who, she said, did not agree with Mangahas' evaluation of her research. Mangahas checked back with each of the persons mentioned, and reported that, with the exception of presidential brother-in-law Raul de Guzman who recommended her to the Comelec, none of the them affirmed Tancangco's allegation. Patricia Licuanan, one of those she mentioned, even wrote to Mangahas denying Tancangco's assertion, and asked to go on record that she did not believe that Tancangco would be an appropriate candidate for Comelec commissioner. In short, Mangahas showed up Tancangco as a liar, in addition to her other shortcomings.

Then there was Ding Tanjuatco, former chair of the House Committee on Electoral Reforms, and one of the most knowledgeable advocates of electoral modernization. In opposing Tancangco's confirmation, he wrote about his experience while working with her (she was consultant to Sen. Miriam Santiago on electoral reforms) in a tripartite oversight committee for the ARMM elections composed of the Senate, the House and the Comelec. He complained that her stubborn insistence that students (whom she would recruit), rather than the Social Weather Stations, be allowed to conduct a survey, resulted in an impasse between her and the rest of the technical oversight group, who objected to the substantially greater expense involved in her suggestion, and the possible inaccuracies. Bottom line: no survey. Lost opportunity.

Tanjuatco also wrote that throughout the discussions on election modernization, Tancangco was very much against it. His words are eerily prophetic:

"She is fixated with election registration and the voters' list—as if the elections ended there. Worse, she has a mind-set that election modernization as provided by Republic Act No. 8436 (the Election Modernization Law, which requires that by the 2001 elections, canvassing and counting of election results have to be computerized) should not be implemented unless her fixation with election registration and the voters' list is first satisfied. At first glance, one might say that this is a matter of personal preference or judgment. But since election modernization is mandated…by the letter and spirit of the law, her position is an open defiance of that statute. If we consider further that as a commissioner of the Comelec she is duty-bound to implement the law, the defiance becomes as inexcusable as it is untenable.

"It is entirely possible that she will eventually pay lip service to election modernization as willed by Congress. Nevertheless, I hope the members of the Commission on Appointments will not fall for this old trick. Because she had made clear her position numerous times in the past, a turnaround should be taken for what it really means—mere lip service.

"…It is my submission that the traits and behavior of Ms Tancangco render her unfit to be a commissioner of the Comelec."

If Tancangco's competence, objectivity and sincerity were put in grave doubt by Mangahas and Tanjuatco, her probity and integrity were questioned by Augusto Lagman, a Namfrel volunteer and chair of its Operations Quick Count since 1984. Lagman, a highly respected businessman, has been one of the leading lights of both the Philippine Computer Society and the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines.

Lagman asserted in a sworn affidavit that Tancangco's allegation (in her discredited 1991 study) that the Namfrel did not provide her any documents that she could use in her report is "a blatant lie," because Lagman furnished her copies of all the relevant documents in his possession. The fact that she made references to the documents means that she did receive them.

That Tancangco's "massive fraud" allegations stopped with the Namfrel's unofficial count, and did not include the official Comelec count was illogical, claimed Lagman, except that she had a pending consulting proposal to the Comelec at the time, which puts into question her probity and integrity.

With all these objections, from people whose own competence, probity and integrity are unquestioned, one wonders how Tancangco could have been given the nod by the Commission on Appointments.

But—confirmed, she was! And her performance in the Comelec has, alas, served to validate her opposers' warnings. As we shall soon see. ***(To be concluded)***

PCGG move against JDV politically motivated?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE PALACE move to transfer the holiday part of the May 1 Labor Day observance to April 29 is reaping brickbats from some sectors, but I have a feeling that on that long weekend of April 27-29, there will be a great many people just the same who will still get out of town for some holiday, if only to the old hometown or to the beach with the clan. Which is what holiday economics wants people to do, anyway.

* * *

The holiday-transfer is being criticized by some labor organizations as an attempt to prevent mass actions on May 1, but they conveniently fail to mention that the Palace has given the assurance that the traditional Labor Day parade and observance will be held on May 1 just the same. As for the sympathizers of deposed President Estrada, they are upset because the holiday-transfer could spoil their plan to recruit people for the May 1 anniversary.

What's good about the April 29 declaration is that it gives people occasion to take off for wherever before the start of school in June. Besides, it's sensible: if the transfer were not effected, private sector workers would have to report to work on Monday, April 29, and then knock off again on Wednesday, May 1. But now they get a straight long weekend and, we hope, those with some money would give the various resorts and provincial economies a shot in the arm.

* * *

There's talk that the reason Manila Rep. Mark Jimenez has not been extradited to the US is that Justice Secretary Hernando Perez has been sitting on his case for several million reasons. I confronted Perez about that rumor during the Palace reception last week and he laughed it off. The DOJ, he stressed, has finished examining all the documents submitted by the US Department of Justice, and the extradition petition our DOJ filed before RTC Branch 42's Judge Guillermo Purganan last May 2001 is proceeding. But just to be sure I got all the facts, Perez directed me to talk to the DOJ official directly in charge of the MJ case, together with State Counsel Claro Flores. She is Undersecretary Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez, an Ateneo Law '72 graduate with 19 years at the DOJ.

Gutierrez said it's unfair to accuse Perez of delaying the MJ case as the process of determining the basis for his extradition, based on 47 counts of fraud filed by the US DOJ, is out of the DOJ's hands as it is with the local court. If it finds basis, then Jimenez will be flown to the US for trial, where the case carries a punishment of imprisonment for 103 years. Gutierrez stressed that one reason the case may not be proceeding as fast may be due to the voluminous documents sent by the US DOJ.

* * *

It was Ilocos Norte Rep. Roquito Ablan Jr., a close ally of Speaker Jose de Venecia, who articulated what was on many minds upon reading the INQUIRER story two days ago, about the PCGG's intention to look once more into the old government case against JDV in the company he formerly headed, Landoil. Terming the press announcement by PCGG Commissioner for Legal Affairs Victoria Avena "unfair, unjust and irresponsible," Ablan said he believes the PCGG move is "politically motivated." In this country, a "politically motivated" action means something carried out either by the administration or the opposition. On the PCGG's recent move versus JDV, Ablan's thinking doubtless is that the Palace is behind the move to rouse old ghosts of Landoil thought to have been exorcised long ago.

* * *

The Ilocos Norte lawmaker's press release didn't say so, but there's little doubt that he's articulating a common thinking: that the latest PCGG *banat* against JDV may be the Palace's way to dampen his support for charter change and the political summit he's orchestrating for next month, wherein all the major local parties are expected to participate. Charter change is expected to be a major issue there, for as JDV's spokesperson, Noel Albano, put it, "there's unanimity on charter change among the parties." The implication is that the Palace doesn't like the cha cha and JDV, a stout ally of the President, has to be reminded of this reality.

* * *

Albano and JDV's lawyer, Arturo de Castro, stressed in separate press releases that the PCGG Civil Case No. 0020 vs. De Venecia and officials of Landoil and Philguarantee can no longer be legally refiled as it was dismissed and "ruled upon with finality" by the Supreme Court in G.R. No. 92594 on March 4, 1994. The Supreme Court decision upheld the Sandiganbayan dismissal of the case against JDV, which, in turn, was based on the decision of three separate PCGGs over several years. Admittedly, there's a lot to argue on JDV's behalf in this regard. But as I told Albano, even assuming that the President would look with suspicious eyes on any major political figure pushing for cha cha, I will find it very difficult to believe that the current PCGG commissioners, led by Chair Haydee Yorac, who enjoy a reputation for probity and independent-mindedness, would allow themselves to be used by Malacañang in the JDV case. Assisting Yorac are lawyers who sprang mainly from the academe and I don't suppose they are about to destroy their careers by being involved in bruising political tussles.

* * *

Yet, I must confess that my thinking was shaken somewhat when I saw the banner of the tabloid Kabayan the other day, which said, "De Venecia, Aarestuhin," complete with a big photo of the Speaker. The story said that JDV and other Marcos cronies would have to face up to the civil and criminal cases filed by the PCGG against them. Considering that this tabloid is published by Dante Francis Ang, the son of GMA's publicist, Dante Ang, this news item is politically significant. To my mind, though, it would be unwise for the Palace to sever its alliance with JDV, for the man is very loyal to GMA.

A deadly game

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GAME *na naman kayo*? Try this: Who should be protesting the recent de-listing by the Bureau of Food and Drugs of the emergency contraceptive pill Postinor?

A) Women who have been raped and fear that they are pregnant.

B) Girls who have been raped by their male relatives, neighbors or other men.

C) Battered women who have been coerced or threatened into unwanted, unprotected sex.

D) All who believe in a woman's right to decide for herself if, when, how often and with whom she is to have sex and get pregnant.

The answer, again, is all of the above. The entry of Postinor was allowed by former Health Secretary Alberto Romualdez initially for use in the hospital-based Department of Health network of Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU), intended for cases of rape, incest and domestic violence. But the process of decision-making that went into the issuance of the Bureau of Food and Drugs order last December, especially the lack of proper and public consultation, is a matter of concern for all women, couples and believers in democratic process.

Levonorgestrel, the generic name of Postinor, works by preventing implantation of the fertilized ovum in the uterus, mainly by cutting off the supply of progesterone and triggering menstruation. It is effective only around 48 hours after intercourse, however, as a woman's body begins producing large doses of progesterone after successful implantation. But because it still involves ingesting a heavy dose of chemical hormones, emergency contraception is generally not recommended for use as a regular family planning method. Postinor should also not be confused with RU-486, the so-called "morning after" pill.

* * *

IN A POSITION paper, Romualdez said emergency contraception has been available in foreign markets for the past 25 years. "Numerous researches have been undertaken and the efficacy and safety of this intervention have been established," he said. The World Health Organization has given its seal of approval to ECPs, and estimates that these have prevented "1.7 million unintended pregnancies, 800,000 abortions and a substantial number of maternal deaths."

With the change of government, however, anti-choice/anti-contraceptive forces began working overtime to push their agenda with what they seem to perceive as a more malleable, if not "friendly" administration.

The order to de-list Postinor, signed by BFAD Director William Torres and dated Dec. 7, 2001, is premised on the constitutional provision calling for the state to protect human life from conception and the illegality of abortion. In the circular, Torres said that "after careful and thorough evaluation of the position papers and researches submitted," he has "determined, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health" that Postinor has "abortifacient effect," and thus "contravenes existing provisions of law on the matter."

* * *

AS discussed in yesterday's column, the issue of when life "begins" is still in dispute. The anti-choice/anti-contraceptive column insists life begins when the ovum is fertilized. Many physicians and pro-choice organizations maintain that conception begins when the process of pregnancy is complete, that is, when the fertilized ovum is successfully implanted in the uterine lining. Still, others submit that "life" exists only with a viable pregnancy, that is, the fetus has a good chance of surviving to full term, generally reckoned after the first trimester. Folk belief would even push this limit further, reckoning the presence of life in a woman's womb only with quickening, or the palpable movements of the fetus. "*Bago gumalaw ang bata, dugo lang ang dinadala* (Before the fetus starts moving, it's only blood)," is how rural women put it.

Given the continued debate over the issue, it should be interesting to find out how the BFAD determined that Postinor is "abortifacient." The documentation provided by the BFAD on which it based its decision shows that the majority of "interested parties" consulted took the view that "life was conceived upon fertilization." The only opposing view came from the licensed product holder, whose position could be considered self-serving since it would profit from the sale of Postinor.

But what do other "interested parties" have to say about Postinor and its allegedly abortifacient effect? Was the medical community consulted? What about POGS, the Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society? Was existing legislation on the matter researched, was the judicial record on the issue of abortion and contraception taken into consideration?

Most importantly, were women, who are the major stakeholders on this issue, heard in the course of the BFAD review process? Were women's organizations invited to hearings? What about groups that work with survivors of gender-based violence, women's health advocates?

* * *

NOT all women will be or have been raped, battered or coerced or fooled into unprotected sex. But the banning of Postinor will have an effect on all of us down the road.

Postinor is the brand name for the 750-microgram formulation of levonorgestrel. But what about levonorgestrel-based oral contraceptive pills that use a much lower formulation? Will these be de-listed as well? If preventing implantation is abortifacient action, will the IUD, "with contra-fertilization and contra-implantation effects" be banned as an abortifacient?

The de-listing of Postinor is but the opening shot in a long drawn-out battle to deprive Filipino women of real and effective reproductive choices. As a position paper on the issue reminds us: "As we discuss and debate, at least 300,000 abortions will take place in our country this year—222 women will experience complications from these abortions every day, and 33 women will die EACH DAY because of unsafe abortions."

Who's playing games with women's lives?

Revisiting Ilocos

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L.Harper

BEFORE I go into the good news/bad news, here is some historical trivia you may find interesting. The Spaniards couldn't seem to make up their minds and called the area at various times I-Liu-kiu, Yloquio, Ilocoa, Yllocos, Ylocos, Yloco and Ylucos. Buzeta y Bravo appeared to believe that the word Ilocos came from the Tagalog word, *ilog* as the first conquistadores found it a place of many rivers.

Ilocanos may find it significant that when Juan de Salcedo came marching in 1572 there were two Ilocano languages; the most widespread was called *Samtoy* or *Sao mi toy.* (The inhabitants may have been Malays but there must have been considerable Chinese influence.) Part of the title of Augustinian friar, Fr. Francisco Lopez's translation of the "Doctrina Cristiana" into Ilocano (1621), reads "Ket inaon ti P. Fr. Fracifico/Lopez padre a S. Agustin iti Sinasantoy."

Although gold was being traded by the Ilocanos with the Chinese and Japanese before the advent of Spain, the area was famous during the halcyon days of the Galleon for its Ilocano cloth (the Spanish sails of the armada were supposed to have been made of Ilocos blanket cloth), the burnay jars that the Japanese used for tea storage, white and yellow wax from the forests, rice of fine quality that was exported and wheat that was made into bread. Ilocano cotton cloth according to Comyn (1810) came embroidered with silk on one side or embroidered on both sides. These could be plain or striped. There were also blue ginghams, flowered calico, cotton sail cloth, towels, mats and carpets.

A branch of the Abra River, El Mestizo, once separated Bantay from Vigan and it was here that a blind baby, later called Pedro Bukaneg by the Augustinian missionaries who brought him up, was found where his mother had abandoned him some time in 1591. It seems there used to be an Ilocano custom of burying defective newborns. Further, Isabelo de los Reyes ("Historia de Ilocos, I") tells us that Ilocano women didn't like having a lot of children because it "made them feel like pigs, for which reason after having one or two (children), the next time they get pregnant, when they are already three or four months (with child), they kill the creature in their body and abort."

So Bukaneg, who is known as the "Father of Iloko Literature," was taken to the parish priest at Bantay who adopted him. When Fray Francisco Lopez translated the "Doctrina Cristiana" into Iloko (c.1616), a labor that took 10 years to complete, he acknowledges the help of D. Pedro Bukaneg "who was always by his side." Fray Lopez spent 22 years studying Ilocano and is the first Spaniard to have written prose and poetry in the language. Before translating the "Doctrina" he is believed to have written "Gramatica Ilocana," again with the help of Bukaneg who is believed to have accompanied the missionaries on their travels around the region and helped in the work of evangelization.

The Ilocano versions of the "Our Father" and the "Hail Mary" are believed to have been collaborations between Father Lopez and Bukaneg. The book includes as well the oldest poems written in the Iloko language set to music while another part is devoted to adaptations of Spanish romances that includes a translation of a poem by St. Gregory and another on the conversion of St. Augustine. There is a copy of this work at the Royal Monastery of El Escorial and there may be another at the Augustinian motherhouse in Valladolid. Of these rare first editions there are none in the country.

The Ilocos churches, aside from their awesomely beautiful architecture popularly called "earthquake Baroque," are also known for the beauty of their ecclesiastical art, i.e., what remains of it as much has been destroyed, sold, or stolen. Two of the most impressive are the Black Nazarene of Sinait that exudes sweet oil and the marble statue of Our Lady at Badoc with an ivory face and hands carrying a Christ child of ivory. Both are believed to have been intended for the missions in Japan but were swept ashore in a black box perhaps from a shipwreck. The inhabitants of both towns fought to keep both images for themselves but when the people of Sinait tried to lift the image of Our Lady they failed to do so but were able to carry the crucifix without effort. On the other hand, the natives of Badoc lifted the Virgin easily. Thus, they took this to mean that God intended them to share the contents of the box.

In passing, it merits a few lines to note that the so-called "evil" friars, aside from ordering the construction of formidable churches, also caused the people to build cemeteries, stone bridges, schools and municipal halls in the various towns. In Magsingal, those nasty Augustinians directed the building of the road to the San Guillermo mineral waters and taught the natives the art of processing *indigo* dye. The drainage system and the construction of a huge dam at Bantay and San Ildefonso were the work as well of several Augustinians.

There is no town where the friars did not leave their mark on civil work such as dikes, irrigation canals and roads that were achieved through that terrible tax called Polo. How these public works could have been achieved otherwise has not been explained.

(A busload of us took off for the North courtesy of the Congregacion del Santo Niño and Mang Ben Farrales who is in the throes of preparations for his 50th jubilee as an artist and deserved a badly needed break. The Department of Tourism and ex-congressman and governor Chavit Singson were our hosts in absentia in Ilocos.)

I believe

YOUNGBLOOD

Dannah Sylvia T. Rubio

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I BELIEVE that man is neither inherently good nor inherently evil. What is inherent in man is rationality and free will—the ability to make choices and decisions based on rational considerations.

I believe that fame and fortune won't buy love or happiness. A kind heart and a generous soul will.

I believe that success shouldn't be measured in terms of the number of cars one has parked in his garage, or the amount of money one has stashed in his bank account. Success should be measured by the number of lives one has touched and helped change for the better.

I believe that everyone deserves a second chance—and a third, and a fourth, and a fifth. I believe that for as long as a person lives, he has the potential in him to change for the better.

I believe in forgiveness. It is in forgiving that we expurgate the hate from our hearts. It is in forgiving that we rise above ourselves.

I believe in rehabilitation—not punishment. I believe that criminals should be resocialized and rehabilitated in correctional institutions—not incarcerated in putrid and decaying penal establishments. I believe that punishment is ruthless and vile. It serves no purpose whatsoever than to satisfy our savage and barbaric desire for revenge.

I believe that we do not have the right to destroy what is not within our power to create, or to take away what is not within our power to give. I believe that we do not have the right to decide whether, when and how a person—no matter how invidious and ignoble—should live or die. I believe that in fighting the ways of the enemy, we shouldn't succumb to their ways—lest, in the final reckoning, we forget what, in the first place, we are fighting for.

I believe that war is pointless and unconscionable for the same reason that I do not believe in punishment. In the civilized world, there is no justification whatsoever for a retaliatory or an offensive war. Innocent civilians get killed in wars. The loss of even one human life should not be tolerated, condoned or brushed aside.

I believe in the absolute equality of every human being. I believe that the lives of the dirt-poor have just as much value as the lives of the filthy rich. I believe that the life of a serial killer matters just as much as the life of a priest. I believe that the life of Osama bin Laden counts no less than the life of George W. Bush. I believe that the life of a sickly old woman is just as important as the life of a newborn baby.

I believe that everyone is born with the potential to be whatever he wants to be—a mathematician, a ballerina, a pianist, a doctor, a lawyer, a teacher, a writer—a combination of all these, and more. While the environment that one grows up in may either hinder or harness that potential, with hard work, fortitude and perseverance, no obstacle is too steep to be overcome, no dream is too lofty to be achieved.

I believe in feminism, the equality between woman and man. I believe that coloring one's hair, using makeup, and wearing stilettos or platform shoes do not make one less of a feminist any more than shaving off one's hair, growing a goatee, or wearing a cravat or a necktie makes one more of a feminist. I believe that one can be a feminist yet behave and act "feminine" at the same time.

I believe that a "working mother" is just as much a "full-time mother" as is a "non-working mother." I believe that giving up one's career or putting it on hold to concentrate on taking care of one's family is just as valid a choice as is continuing to work while taking care of one's family.

I believe that husband and wife should share household duties and responsibilities equally. I believe that fathers and mothers should play equally active roles in taking care of the children.

I believe that grades are more a measure of a person's diligence in studying than they are an accurate measure of one's intelligence.

I believe that EQ is more important than IQ.

I believe that one can learn more outside the classroom than in it.

I believe that there is something to be learned from everybody.

I believe that when a person hurts another person, he hurts himself much more.

I believe that everyone has his/her own special and unique kind of beauty that is all his/her own. I believe that a ravishing physiognomy and a pulchritudinous physique, of and by themselves, will not necessarily make a person beautiful. A compassionate heart and a beneficent soul invariably will.

I believe that fidelity is more important than marriage. Where there is no fidelity, there can be no love (love in the romantic sense, that is).

I believe that sex should only be in the context of a loving relationship.

I believe that "love negates the need to be undressed."

I believe that staying single for life is an option.

I believe that the state has no business coercing spouses to stay shackled in a loveless marriage.

I believe that love cannot exist without mutual respect.

I believe that we must always treat others with the respect due them, but before we can expect others to respect us, we must first respect ourselves.

I believe that promiscuity, prostitution and pornography are immoral.

I believe that discrimination in any manner, shape and form is abominable, and shouldn't be in any way sanctioned, brooked, or countenanced.

I believe that hazing, as with all forms of violence, is cruel and sadistic, and embodies the exact antithesis of the brotherhood that fraternities purport to epitomize.

I believe that one's connections (or lack of them) shouldn't be factored in at the expense of another person's qualifications (or lack of them) in elections, applications to schools, colleges and universities, admission to associations and organizations, employment, appointment, promotion and other matters of a similar nature.

I believe that the poor need to be given jobs, not alms.

I believe that the grievances of our brothers and sisters in Mindanao should be given high-level priority by the government.

I believe that Left-wing activists, NGOs and civil society groups are rightly outraged at the infirmities and derelictions of the government, but I do not believe that taking to the streets and advocating the overthrow of whoever is in power at the moment will expunge the ills gripping our society. Such a course of action will accomplish nothing except to sow the seeds of discord and conflict when what is needed is healing and reconciliation. Only when we stand united as one nation can we work together for the good of our country and our people.

I believe that it is only by listening to contrary points of view that we can truly reflect on the merits of our own point of view. I believe that it is only through constructive debate and exchange of insight among diverse schools of thought that knowledge can be genuinely enriched, and the whole of mankind can advance and prosper as a civilization.

Dannah Sylvia T. Rubio, 21, is a law student at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

RP envoy to Vienna denies raps

RAMON Tulfo wrote a very one-sided and biased article about me and Connie on April 6, 2002. Unfortunately, Tulfo does not know us. I would have thought that as a responsible journalist, he would have first given me the opportunity to air my side before writing his column. Instead, he swallowed hook, line and sinker what his friend, Maria Luisa Garcia, had conveyed to him. In her letter, Garcia viciously attacked us without any basis. All her accusations are false, libelous and malicious.

Garcia is the best friend of Minister Maria Cleofe Natividad of the Philippine Embassy in Vienna. In October 2001, Natividad issued a passport to a Filipino drug dealer who is now serving sentence for raping a 13-year-old Austrian girl. When I found out about this, I scolded her. Since then, she has been moving heaven and earth to have us ousted from Vienna. She has also been spreading all sorts of lies and innuendoes against us.

She even instigated the staging of a demonstration of about 30 people against the embassy on Feb. 22. Based on my report to the Department of Foreign Affairs about the activities of Natividad, Vice President and Foreign Secretary Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. immediately directed her transfer to Geneva on Feb. 28, 2002. But since Natividad is still in Vienna, there has been no let-up in the campaign of character assassination and black propaganda against us.

—VICTOR G. GARCIA III, Philippine ambassador to Vienna

Import permits for used vehicles still issued

THIS refers to the column of Conrado R. Banal III in the April 9 edition of the INQUIRER.

We would like to correct the statement that the Bureau of Import Services (BIS) has stopped issuing import permits for used motor vehicles. We continue to accept and process applications for import permits for used motor vehicles covered under the Inter-Agency Committee on Used Trucks and Engines (IAC-UTE) Program under Executive Order 782 as amended by EO 354 and EO 361, and the No Dollar Importation (NDI) Program for Returning Residents pursuant to EO 248. The IAC-UTE program covers only certain types of used vehicles. Vehicles not included in the list are considered liberalized, hence, do not require import permits from the BIS. These include heavy equipment such as bulldozers, graders, rollers and similar vehicles.

We also accept and process applications filed by *balikbayans*, returning residents and immigrants to import used motor vehicles under the No Dollar Import Program. The issuance of an import permit is based on the qualification of the importer and the specifications of the vehicle.

—LUIS M. CATIBAYAN, officer in charge, Bureau of Import Services, 3/F Oppen Bldg., 349 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

The arduous process of developing mines today

THIS has reference to your editorial cartoon depicting our lumad brothers selling their ancestral domain lands to multinational mining companies.

This was probably an offshoot of two news items, also in the INQUIRER of Feb. 9, 2002, where the tribe favorably endorsed a "mining" project and another on Feb. 17, 2002, where some lumad of Davao Oriental claimed to have sold their ancestral domain lands to "mining" companies.

Before a "mining" permit is granted, including permission to even undertake mineral exploration, the applicant has to undergo the process of securing consent from the tribal community as stipulated in the Mining Act of 1995 and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997 or the Ipra Law. The process entails the applicant presenting his plans and programs to the indigenous community, usually for nothing other than mineral exploration of an area and if these plans and proposed programs are acceptable to the community, the community then issues the "Free and Prior Informed Consent" or the FPIC.

Having complied with the FPIC, a memorandum of agreement is then signed between the applicant and the tribal community.

Unfortunately, the issuance of the FPIC and the signing of the agreement are all too often assumed by those who know very little of the minerals industry as involving money changing hands. The reality today is that tribal communities can decide, and have in the past decided not to grant an FPIC, even for mineral exploration. This is their prerogative. The other reality of modern mineral exploration is that as few as 1 in 1,000 exploration projects will become a mine, either because an economic discovery is not made within the area, or even if an economic discovery is made, the project still doesn't end up becoming a mine because the local community decides that a mine is environmentally or socially unacceptable. But even if the community does approve of the project becoming a mine, it still may not happen because of lack of funding. These are the realities of modern mineral exploration and mineral resource development, alias "mining."

The minerals industry has often been unduly accused as an environmental monster, an industry that dislocates tribal communities from their ancestral lands and now, as an ancestral land "buyer." The Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries (MINA), a Davao-based organization that is endeavoring to educate community leaders, opinion makers and politicians about the potential contribution that could be made by responsible mineral exploration and mineral resource development toward poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Mindanao's upland areas, has over the past two years been trying hard to engage all concerned parties in a dialogue that is based on facts. But this recent allegation is an outright distortion of the truth, one that does not have any basis, and one that should be answered.

Our association is therefore challenging the people who have raised this issue to provide us with hard evidence that multinational mining companies are buying ancestral lands and indigenous peoples are selling their domain. If MINA can be given these facts, we will be consulting with our legal advisers and file appropriate charges against the mining company and the lumad. If true, this practice is against the law, specifically, the Ipra Law.

MINA welcomes all sectors that have genuine concerns with regard to the minerals industry to contact MINA in order for MINA to present the industry's side on this particular issue and to present MINA's vision for responsible mineral exploration and mineral resource development in partnership with Mindanao's indigenous, Christian and Muslim communities as one realistic option for achieving poverty alleviation and sustainable development in Mindanao's upland areas.

—EDGAR D. MARTINEZ, president, Mindanao Association for Mineral Industries (MINA) Inc., mina@dv.weblinq.com

BUIL
ERS
JAPA

MIKE ALQUINTO

Eradicating polio and rabies totally

"PATAK Anti-Polio," this is the battle cry of the Department of Health headed by Secretary Manuel Dayrit. This is one of the most meaningful and laudable projects of the Macapagal administration. I know that the government and the DOH are trying their very best to eradicate polio in this country.

Rabies from dogs (or other domestic animals) must be eradicated, too. Dog vaccine may cost P25,000 for a person weighing 140 pounds. It's very costly and expensive; the cost of the vaccine depends on the weight of the person.

It is high time now that all dogs in this country be injected by the anti-rabies vaccine. Prevention is less expensive than cure.

Last March 17, 2002 the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry injected for free anti-rabies vaccines for more than 250 dogs in Meralco Village, St. Michael, St. Francis and other nearby villages and barangays.

Heartfelt thanks to the following persons: Elisa C. Santiago, Aida H. Hollow, Dr. Victor C. Atienza, Dr. Leonilo R. Resuntoc, Dr. Ronello C. Abila and Director Jose Q. Molina. They were the persons responsible for the much relevant and worthwhile project. It was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Cordero ng Diyos 9011 headed by Grand Knight SK Boy Verayo and SK Boy Francisco.

I have read that in other countries, polio and rabies have been totally eradicated. If other countries can do it, why can't we?

—FAYE SOBREVIÑAS, System Technology Institute (STI), Mecauyan, Bulacan

Reports on two 'good deeds'

YOUR Sunday, March 24 issue featured two reports. One on the Archdiocese of Manila allocating Palm Sunday collections for pro-poor programs and the other, the Xavier School story about the 7th Grade graduates giving up their traditional party for a scholarship fund.

This is a relief and certainly very gratifying to read reports of "good deeds" instead of politics, rape, murder and the doings of movie personalities.

—BIENVENIDO A. TAN JR., Unit 7A, The Valero Tower, Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

DepEd's new basic curriculum deserves support

THIS refers to the article on March 31, 2002 titled, "Do kids need a new curriculum?"

I support the Department of Education's revitalized curriculum. In my opinion, it is an answer to the sorry state of basic education. Our children deserve a better and stronger curriculum that will educate them for global competitiveness. Restructuring the old curriculum to make up for our shortcomings and limitations is laudable and necessary.

I don't understand why critics claim that it is a very dangerous curriculum. It is argued that the new curriculum will displace subjects that teach a sense of nationhood, belonging and values. It is said that because Social Studies, Home Economics, Physical Education, Health and Music will have shorter hours, categorized as Makabayan subjects, then Filipino values and nationalism will not be inculcated properly among the young. The other arguments have to do with the possibility of teachers' retrenchment, lack of broad-based consultations among stakeholders, textbook shortages, lack of materials and facilities to implement the revitalized curriculum and the late start and lack of preparation.

I beg to disagree. First, the Makabayan subjects will not be neglected just because of the shorter time allotted to them. They will not be lumped together but integrated for an interdisciplinary approach aimed at an integrative, interactive and collaborative teaching of Filipino values, patriotism and national identity. Besides, the new curriculum is committed to the constitutional mandate of teaching patriotism.

Second, the teachers will not be displaced because they will teach in tandem or as a team, according to Education Undersecretary Fe Hidalgo. In fact, more teachers will be recruited as part of Secretary Raul Roco's fulfillment of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's promise of hiring additional teachers.

Third, consultation has been made since the mid-'90s to restructure the 1983 Elementary School Curriculum and the 1989 Secondary School Curriculum. Besides, the DepEd has been consulting stakeholders of different regions nationwide to ascertain different local situations.

We must not overlook the fact that BEC 2002 is a response to our deteriorating educational curriculum. Our old curriculum placed our pupils and students at the lowest rank from the 1995 survey of Asian countries up to now. We need reforms. Our children need the new curriculum.

—DODO RA. CAGAS, Estrada 3rd Street, Digos City, Davao del Sur

Bush faces turning point in Mideast

WASHINGTON—Israel, the Palestinians and much of the Arab world have defied President George W. Bush's pleas for peace and tolerance in the Middle East. Without progress soon, Bush may be forced to consider policies that he had previously rejected as too extreme.

He could sever ties with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, whose relationship with the United States is already hanging by a thread. Bush also could intensify diplomatic pressure on Arab leaders, who are uneasy about his war on terrorism and have been balking at White House urgings that they press Arafat to renounce violence.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Ron Fournier

Even Israel, one of the closest US allies, may not be immune. The White House has ruled out cutting financial support to the Jewish state, but there are ways to turn up the heat. Bush could distance himself from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who has frustrated the president with his refusal to end incursions into Palestinian cities.

The White House opened its doors Thursday to Sharon rival and former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who met with Vice President Dick Cheney. Like Sharon, Netanyahu has called for strong action against Palestinians.

"You have to read the riot act to both sides," said Judith Kipper, director of Mideast studies at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "So far, he has read the riot act but has not backed it up."

The Mideast crisis is testing Bush's influence in curbing Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed and returning the world's focus to the now-overshadowed war on terrorism.

Aides warned Bush last week that it could be an enormous risk to abandon his long-held position that only Israelis and Palestinians—not an American president—could resolve the decades-old dispute. But he decided it would be a greater risk not to deepen his involvement, because the violence threatened to spread elsewhere and Israeli attacks were turning Arab leaders cold to Bush's plans to undermine Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Thus, he insisted that Israel stop its attacks on Palestinian cities and withdraw its troops. Bush urged Arafat to denounce terrorism and said Arab leaders needed to rally behind a peace plan and press Arafat to comply with it.

The calls went unheeded.

As Israel drove deeper into Palestinian cities, Bush added a timetable to his demands Saturday and said the withdrawal should be immediate. He and Sharon exchanged blunt words in a telephone call that same day.

Since then, Israel has attacked some cities and pulled back from others—the only small diplomatic victory White House press secretary Ari Fleischer could point to Thursday.

Fleischer seemed to reward Sharon for the slightest bit of progress. Putting a positive spin on events, he said Israel was "continuing" its withdrawals.

"All parties have an obligation to act. All parties. Not just one," Fleischer said as he was peppered by questions about Israel's actions.

Arab leaders, meanwhile, seemed reluctant to pressure Arafat.

Saudi Arabia's ruling family gave $1.35 million to a campaign to raise millions of dollars in aid to families of Palestinian "martyrs." White House officials considered whether to start publicly criticizing Arab leaders who incite or tacitly endorse violence.

Some Arab leaders have reacted coolly toward Secretary of State Colin Powell's peacemaking visit to the Mideast. King Mohammed VI of Morocco received Powell by saying, "Don't you think it was more important to go to Jerusalem first?" to pressure Israel.

Antony Blinken, a national security aide under President Bill Clinton, said Israel is likely to heed the call for troop withdrawals because failing to do so would embarrass Bush—a key Israeli ally.

"If he looks ineffectual…the president will pay a political price," Blinken said. "I think the president has pressure coming to him from all sides and the way to ease that is to get some progress. Quickly."

Nobody wants to talk about the consequences of falling short.

Welcoming Powell to his nation Thursday, King Abdullah II of Jordan told the American, "You know that we are so worried that if you fail…."

The king did not complete the sentence.

Kipper said there are many options open to Bush—none easy. Among them: threaten to reduce Israeli aid, limit diplomatic contacts with the offending parties and bypass the leadership to speak directly to the Israeli and Palestinian people.

"He's trying to play a delicate balance," Kipper said. "How do you pull the parties apart, yank them by the scruff of their necks and get them paying attention?"

"That may depend on how far the president is willing to go," she said.

AP

Gov't not serious with review of IPP deals

TWO days ago, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo wants the ongoing government review of the power supply contracts with the Independent Power Producers (IPPs) completed "as soon as possible." Yet in the same breath, he declared that all the government could do was to "convince" the IPPs to have the contracts renegotiated or rescinded. With this statement, Tiglao inadvertently admitted what we have known all along—that the Macapagal administration lacks the political will to correct the defects of the IPP contracts and to seriously address their disastrous effects.

Fact is, there are many onerous provisions in the IPP contracts that need to be reviewed. These onerous provisions have a direct connection with the high cost of electricity that ordinary consumers are forced to pay for every month.

The IPP contracts entered into by both the National Power Corp. and the distribution utilities like Meralco, contain undue guarantees to private power suppliers. The most controversial of these is the take-or-pay agreement, which provides that the Napocor and the distribution utilities pay up to 85 percent of the electricity supposedly generated by the IPPs even when only 10 to 40 percent of the power is utilized. The contracts also provide for other burdensome expenses, such as fuel and foreign exchange rate guarantees.

Knowing fully well that the Napocor does not have the capacity to comply with the provisions of the contracts, the Ramos administration conveniently imposed on the consumers the burden of paying for the Napocor's huge obligations. Likewise, it allowed distribution utilities like Meralco to pass on to the public the costs of their private transactions with their own IPPs and sister companies. This was done by charging consumers the staggering Purchased Power Adjustment (PPA), in addition to the basic charges that are regularly collected from them. In other words, consumers not only pay for the expensive power they consume, they are also compelled to surrender their hard-earned money for electricity they did not use!

To reverse this unjust situation, the first thing the Macapagal administration must do is to ensure that a thorough review of the IPPs is being undertaken. Unfortunately, the efforts of the inter-agency committee tasked to review the IPP contracts leave much to be desired. For one, the committee is not inclined to investigate the actual operations of the IPPs and the condition of their power plants. Also, it does not intend to look into pertinent documents, relevant decisions and legal opinions surrounding the approval of the contracts. It has solely restricted its review to the written IPP contracts, thereby rendering the committee incapable of a holistic and critical evaluation of the IPPs. We have met with some committee members on about three occasions, and each time, we came out unconvinced that they were serious about renegotiating the contracts, much less rescinding them.

True enough, Tiglao's recent statement validates our suspicion. By declaring that it was not going to renegotiate or rescind any contract, the Macapagal administration has preempted its own review process and undermined its own efforts.

And so we stress our point once again: Without a thorough critical review and the consequent renegotiation and rescinding of the IPP contracts, there will be no end to the high electricity prices that the consumers are being made to pay.

President Macapagal must seriously resolve the pressing problems of an already discontented public. She must urgently set aright the irregular transactions plaguing the power industry. Or else, she might not remain in power for long.

—MA. TERESA DIOKNO-PASCUAL, commissioner, Citizens' Review Commission on the IPPs

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Oil prices drop after Chavez resigns

SINGAPORE—Oil prices dropped to a four-week low on Friday after Venezuela President Hugo Chavez resigned on Friday, a move which was expected to bring an end to a six-week oil workers' strike and return normal crude supplies.

US benchmark light crude fell to a low at $24.50 a barrel in Asia, the lowest level since March 18. It recovered to $24.61, marking a 37-cent loss from Thursday's settlement.

Chavez resigned after senior military officers blamed him for violence against an anti-Chavez protest in which at least 10 people were killed, the country's armed forces chief said.

Venezuela's crude output has been cut by as much as 20 percent from about 2.6 million bpd in March. Refinery production also was disrupted.

Last year Venezuela exported nearly 1.3 million bpd of crude and 250,000 bpd of refined products to the United States, about 13 percent of imports into the world's biggest oil consumer.

Despite the Venezuelan and Iraqi outages, US fuel stockpiles remain at comfortable surpluses versus last year and fears of any supply crunch have ebbed.

Crude is more than $3.50, or 13 percent, below a six-month high above $28 struck last week when fears peaked of a potential supply squeeze due to escalating violence in the Middle East.

Prices stayed on the boil on Monday when Iraq announced a month-long ban on daily crude exports of two million barrels in support of the Palestinians and signs emerged that the Venezuela oil workers' protests were biting into supplies.

Reuters

US commander: It could take years to find Osama

AFP

AN ELDERLY man sits praying inside a mosque in Kabul on Islamic religious Friday, April 12. After years of war and hard times under Taliban rule, life is getting back to normal and people can enjoy basic and common human interests.

WASHINGTON—No one should be surprised that the US military has failed so far to kill or capture terrorist leader Osama bin Laden, the US commander of the war in Afghanistan said Thursday.

Gen. Tommy Franks said even the most sophisticated and powerful weapons cannot assure a successful manhunt.

"That's not what militaries do," he said in a question-and-answer session with a group of international reporters.

"Even the very best law enforcement capabilities . . . will find that sometimes it takes years to find a single person," he added.

Franks said he does not know Bin Laden's whereabouts but assumes he is alive. There have been no indications of Bin Laden's whereabouts since December, when he apparently was in eastern Afghanistan.

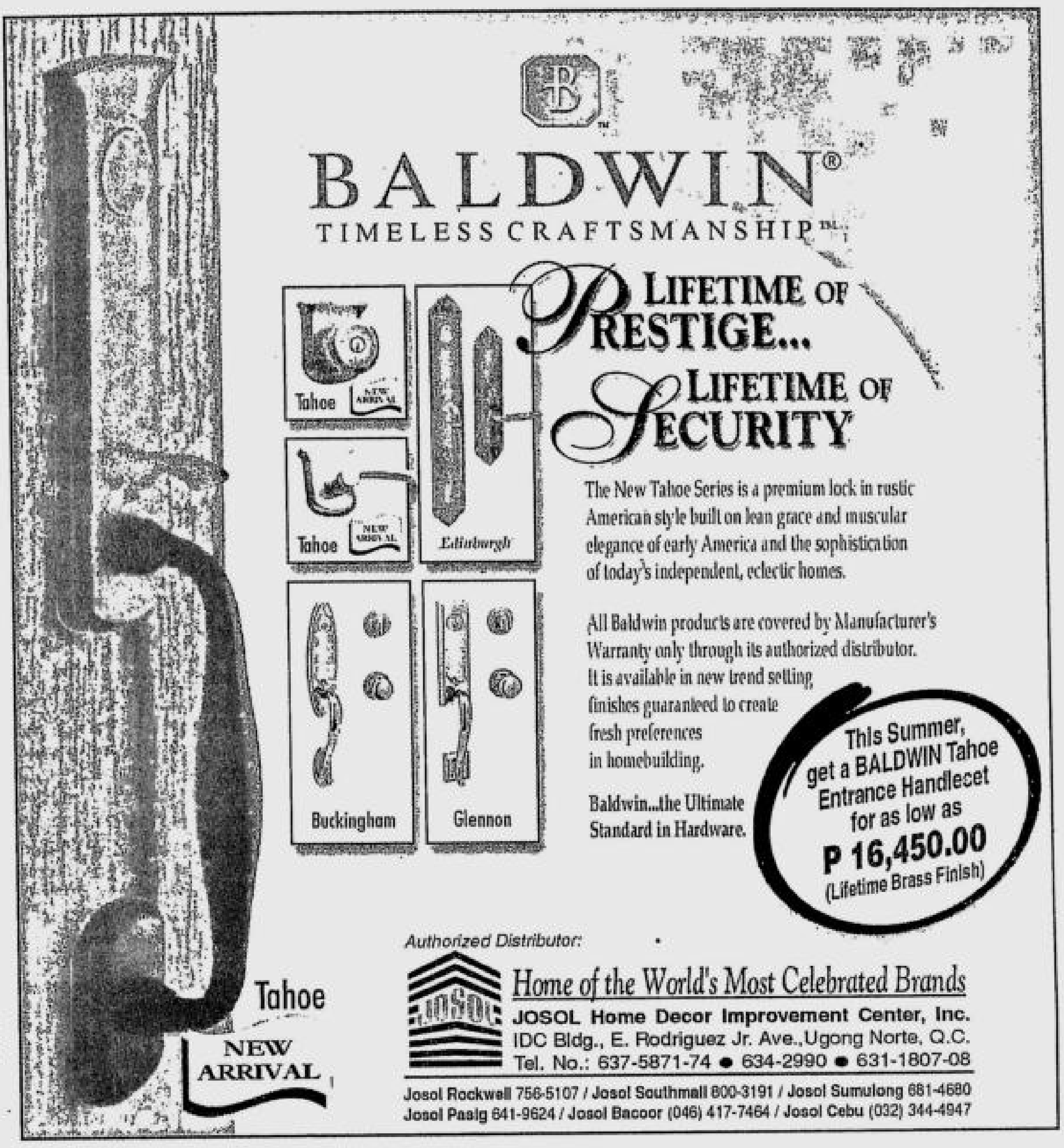
"I have not seen evidence that Bin Laden is dead, so I must believe he is still alive," he said.

Of the most senior people in Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, the only one known to have been killed so far is Mohammed Atef, the Egyptian who was military commander of al-Qaida. He was killed in an air strike. Abu Zubaydah, a top terrorism plotter and recruiter of al-Qaida operative, was wounded when he was captured by Pakistani forces last month and is under US control at an undisclosed location.

Also remaining at large, despite US and Afghan efforts to find him, is Mullah Mohammed Omar, leader of the deposed Taliban militia that ran Afghanistan and gave haven to the al-Qaida leadership.

Franks said he could not predict how long it would take to capture Bin Laden and his most senior lieutenants.

AP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S. Korea tells North it is possible US military target

CHEJU CITY, South Korea—South Korea's president has told North Korea Pyongyang could be a US military target if diplomatic non-proliferation efforts fail, the president's envoy said on Friday.

Lim Dong-won told the Cheju Peace Forum conference on North-South relations he had taken a "very long and detailed letter" from President Kim Dae-jung when he visited Pyongyang for talks with the North's Kim Jong-il and other officials last week.

Lim's talks resulted in a resumption of stalled North-South exchanges and helped set the stage for what would be the first full-scale talks between Pyongyang and the administration of President George W. Bush.

Bush branded the North part of an "axis of evil" for trying to develop and proliferate weapons of mass destruction.

"In the letter, President Kim first of all emphasised that Chairman Kim must accept and understand that the global strategy of the United States has fundamentally changed," Lim said, referring to world security and the US-led war on terrorism.

"He went on to point out that when diplomatic efforts at non-proliferation fails, then the United States is prepared to resort to military means of counter-proliferation and that Chairman Kim must fully, and clearly, understand that North Korea itself is also included in the possible targets for such military efforts by the United States."

Lim, one of the key architects of Kim Dae-jung's "Sunshine Policy" of engaging the North, said the North Korean leader had told him he understood the "extreme gravity" of the situation on the peninsula, divided since a devastating war 50 years ago.

"Kim made it clear that he will pursue dialogue with the United States," Lim said. "North Korea prefers cooperation over confrontation. They know that dialogue and cooperation are the only way to guarantee their very survival."

Lim shrugged off a statement issued overnight by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) saying North Korea would only talk with the United States when conditions were ripe.

"The DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is of the view that such an environment has not yet been created," KCNA quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesperson as saying.

Reuters

Sri Lanka peace talks welcomed

PRABHAKARAN

COLOMBO—The United States on Friday welcomed the support of Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebel chief for a Norwegian-backed peace bid, but urged him to abandon violence "unequivocally."

A statement from the US Embassy here praised Velupillai Prabhakaran's "commitment to peace and a negotiated political settlement," expressed Wednesday at his first press conference in 12 years inside rebel-held territory.

"We also welcome his acknowledgement that the questions of Sri Lankan (minority) Muslims must be resolved alongside those of the (minority) Tamil people," it said, while stressing the need for Prabhakaran's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to lay down their arms.

"We have long believed that violence cannot achieve the Tigers' stated objectives, and urge Mr. Prabhakaran to abandon its use unequivocally," the statement said.

In his rare press conference, Prabhakaran had declared himself committed to Norway's peace process even though he was not ready to give up arms immediately.

The rebel leader said conditions were still not right for the LTTE to abandon its policy of independent statehood and added that it would only consider renouncing violence once a "permanent solution" had been reached to the Sri Lanka's ethnic conflict.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the LTTE's long-running battle for an independent state called Eelam in the island's north-east.

"If Sri Lankans on both sides (of the ethnic divide) continue to approach talks constructively and show a willingness to compromise, we believe peace can return," the Embassy said.

The United States designated the LTTE a foreign terrorist organisation in October 1997 and moved to freeze its assets last year.

Prabhakaran rejected suggestions that his organisation's move towards peace talks was made out of fear of an international crackdown in the wake of the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington.

AFP

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More than 100 Nepalese killed in rebel attacks

KATMANDU—Thousands of Nepalese Maoist rebels killed 84 policemen in night-time raids Friday that left more than 100 people dead and marked a sharp escalation of their six-year-old insurgency, officials said.

In the deadliest attacks since February, the ultra-leftist guerrillas overran two police stations in the jungle district of Dang, some 450 km southwest of the capital Katmandu.

"Nearly 3,000 Maoist rebels suddenly attacked two police posts at Satbaria and Lamahi areas in Dang district late Thursday night which continued until the early hours of Friday morning," a senior home ministry official said.

Eighty-four policemen were killed in the assault, while 12 rebels were confirmed dead, security sources said.

Six civilians were also burned to death when the Maoists stopped and torched a night bus heading toward Bardia, southwest of Dang district, a home ministry source said.

A defense ministry spokesperson said the Maoists also attacked a police post farther southwest at Bhaluwang, but there were no further details.

It was the deadliest assault by the Maoists since February, when the Maoists killed 128 policemen. The most devastating attack of the rebel campaign prompted Nepal's fractious parliament to prolong by three months a state of emergency imposed in late November.

Observers said the latest attacks marked a new strategy by the Maoists, who in the past have carried out hit-and-run raids on security forces and then disappeared into the bush.

But security sources said the Maoists were holding on to the police posts and had set up barriers on surrounding roads, apparently daring the army to strike back at them.

The rebels also set fire to some of the thick jungle to block helicopters from sending in reinforcements.

Home Minister Khum Bahadur Khadka managed to land nearby in Dang district to assess the damage and report back to parliament. *AFP*

Pearl murder trial adjourned anew

KARACHI—The trial in Pakistan of British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and three alleged accomplices for the kidnap and murder of American reporter Daniel Pearl was adjourned for 10 days on Friday, lawyers said.

Defense lawyers said the judge at the anti-terrorist court had adjourned proceedings for a second time since the closed-door trial opened last week to give the police more time to find seven more alleged members of the kidnap gang.

Preliminary charges of kidnap, murder and terrorism were laid against Omar and his alleged accomplices last month, but formal charges are now expected to be heard when the trial starts in earnest.

During Friday's short hearing Sheikh Omar, the well-educated son of a wholesale clothes merchant from Wanstead in northeast London, again rejected the court's authority and asked to be tried in an Islamic court under Sharia law, lawyers said.

"I don't accept British laws. I should be tried in a Shariat court," defense lawyer Khawaja Navweed quoted Omar as saying.

Sheikh Omar's father was allowed into the jail building along with the mother and brother of co-defendant Sheikh Adil, a former policeman, but media were again barred. *Reuters*

REUTERS

HEALTH DISASTER

A Somalian woman holds her malnourished child at a feeding center in Mogadishu, Somalia, April 4. Dangerous water is just one of many perils that have created the human health disaster in southern Somalia, a region hammered by years of militia anarchy, almost bereft of formal medical care and hit by an array of sickness and malnutrition.

Cries of fowl play raised at agri show

CLARENDON, Australia—Feathers are flying among Australia's prize poultry performers.

Competitions to decide prize chickens and ducks might sound like innocent affairs but there have been accusations of foul play at a major Australian agricultural show.

Frustrated breeders say theft of the birds, which can cost up to $424 each, has been a big problem for years.

Some have started inserting computer chips in their birds after experimenting with imprinting distinctive patterns on their chickens' feet and attaching bands under their wings.

"It's like getting your car stolen or anything else . . . if it's open, people will sneak in," poultry farmer John Pearce said after he won several awards for Old English red chickens at the 116th Hawkesbury Show, an hour's drive north of Sydney.

"I walk down the road with a scanner and I can tell which ones are mine . . . but I'm not telling you where I put the chip," Pearce said Friday.

Three-tiered rows of cages, each containing a primped and preened bird, stretch the length of a judging hall at the show.

Competition was tough and judges lifted each flapping fowl out of its cage and stretched its wings for inspection. Marks are awarded for size, color and shape.

And for Australia's proud poultry breeders, nothing is too much for their beloved feathered charges.

"I bet my duck pens are cleaner than your kitchen, my ducks have got their own swimming pool," crowed Bruce Kelly, who has around 400 ducks at his "Quack or Two" duck farm.

Kelly, who sports two diamonds in his front teeth, supplied "stage ducks" to star in the hit movie "Babe" and his trained ducks regularly star in television commercials. *Reuters*

HK's government structure to undergo sweeping makeover

HONG KONG—Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa will announce next week the most sweeping changes in the territory's government structure since Britain yielded the former colony to China in 1997.

The former shipping magnate, picked by Beijing to take Hong Kong's helm, will create a new layer of government by putting trusted lieutenants and political appointees in key positions, which will shore up his power.

Tung says the new structure, in effect a buffer of political appointees between him and the powerful civil service, will make his administration more accountable.

But critics say the appointees will cause friction with the 180,000-strong civil service, which in theory is neutral.

The political changes are widely seen as a move by Tung, who is largely unpopular with the public, to tighten his grip on power as he prepares for a second five-year term starting in July.

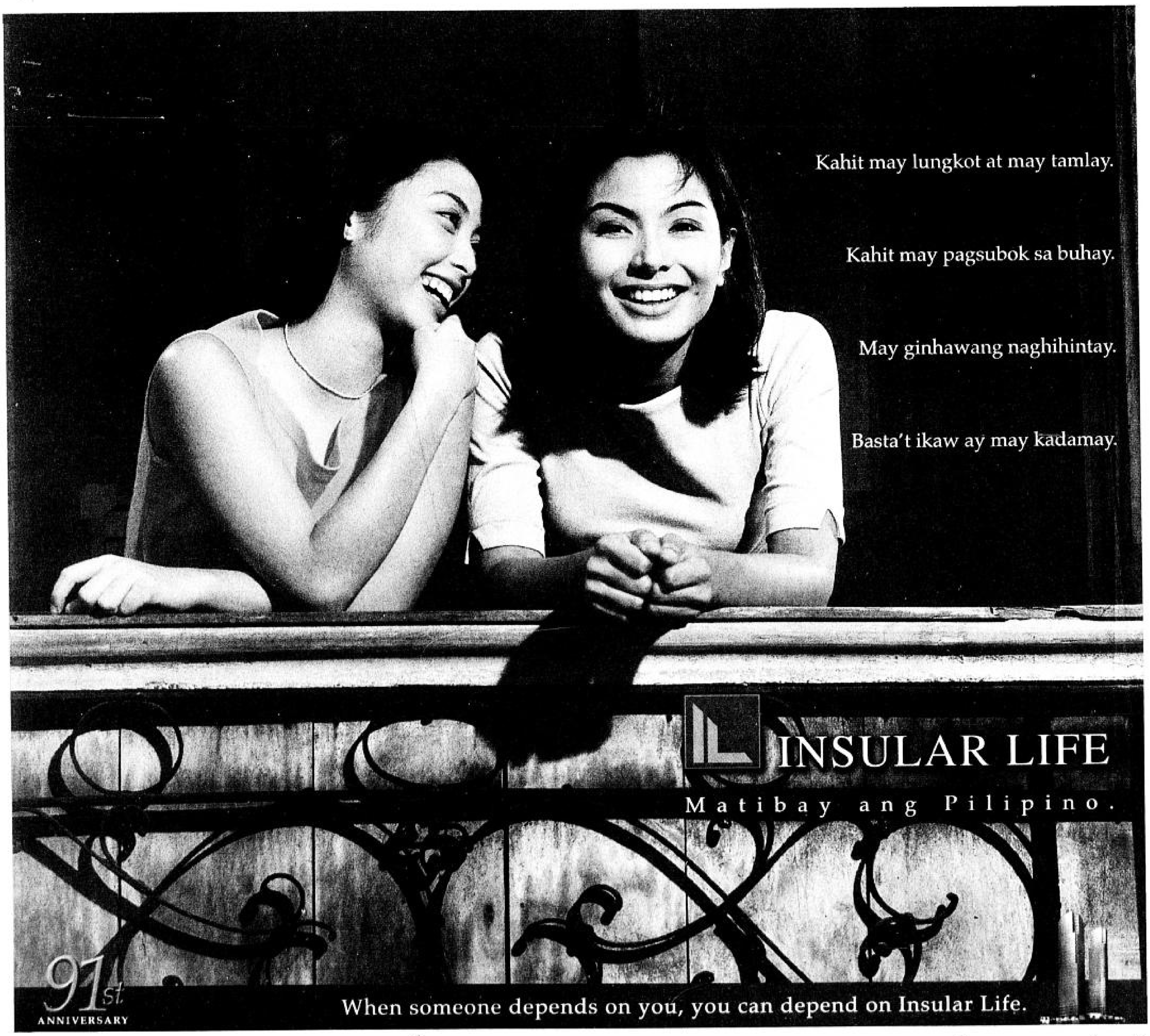
Top local civil servants, trained originally to execute decisions by British officials appointed by London, have been in charge of their departments since the sovereignty handover.

But a string of policy failures and Tung's inability to fire erring civil servants have been criticized strongly in recent years, triggering calls for Tung to make his administration more accountable.

Tung, who secured his second term standing unopposed and with Beijing's support, will unveil his system of political appointees next Wednesday.

Though not popularly elected, the "ministers" will be put on the frontlines and expected to take credit, and blame.

Three of Tung's most trusted aides—Chief Secretary Donald Tsang, Financial Secretary Antony Leung and Justice Secretary Elsie Leung—are expected to figure in the new power structure. *Reuters*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Slain activist a rebel, Army officer says

By Joselle d.R. Badilla
and Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The human rights leader who was killed by soldiers in a reported encounter in Arakan, Cotabato, was a New People's Army rebel, according to a military officer based in that province.

Army 2nd Lt. Bernardo Rucio, executive officer of the 12th Special Forces Company, told a local radio station that a diary allegedly belonging to the victim, Benjaline Hernandez "clearly" showed that she was a rebel.

Hernandez was identified by the Karapatan human rights group as its deputy secretary general for Southern Mindanao.

The diary was among the items recovered by the military from the scene of the encounter.

Rucio said entries in the diary from Feb. 15 to April 4 showed that Hernandez was a rebel. The March 28 entry read "Long live the revolution! Happy Anniversary!" he said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division based in Maguindanao, said entries in the diary included Hernandez's activities with the NPA and her armed encounter with the military.

Karapatan earlier said Hernandez was in Arakan to document cases of alleged military abuses. She was killed by Army soldiers on April 5 in Barangay Kinawayan.

An international group fighting for world press freedom condemned the killing of Hernandez, a student journalist.

In a letter sent to President Macapagal-Arroyo, the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders (Reporters Sans Frontieres) said the killing showed that Mindanao "remains one of the most dangerous places in the world for journalists and defenders of human rights."

But military authorities said Hernandez's death was a result of a legitimate encounter.

Ando said members of the 12th Special Forces were checking reports about the presence of NPA guerrillas in Barangay Kinawayan when they were fired upon.

The government soldiers returned fire, Ando said. A 30-minute exchange of gunfire ensued.

After the clash, Ando said the soldiers checked a hut where they believed the firing came from and found Hernandez and three others dead.

Ando did not categorically say that Hernandez was a rebel, but he said they did not know why she was in the company of the NPA rebels.

Joel Virador, Karapatan secretary general, said the incident was plain murder.

Citing results of an autopsy conducted by the National Bureau of Investigation, Virador said the bodies of Hernandez and the other victims bore contusions and bullet wounds that indicated they were shot at close range.

In a press conference yesterday morning, Angela Librado, one of the legal counsels of the Hernandez family, said the alleged diary should be returned to her family.

Karapatan did not react to the military's claim that the diary contained Hernandez's activities in the communist movement.

But Virador said keeping a diary did not imply that an individual committed a crime.

Balikatan games to displace 40 Aeta families

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Plans are underway to evacuate 40 Aeta families away from the Crow Valley gunnery range in Capas, Tarlac to keep them from harm posed by live firing practices for the large-scale training Balikatan 2002.

Jaime Yambao, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the Visiting Forces Agreement, said the Aetas of Sitio Tarukan in Barangay Sta. Juliana, Capas will be "relocated" in school buildings before and during the three-week training, which begins on April 22.

Tarukan stands on a hill next to an area actively used for live fire bombing and shooting at the 17,000-hectare military reservation managed by the Philippine Air Force.

The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples has proposed the construction of a "model Aeta village" to permanently keep the tribe away from Crow Valley, an ancestral domain until the United States 13th Air Force annexed it to the former Clark Air Base in nearby Pampanga.

Scavengers

Yambao said it was necessary to move the Aetas away from Crow Valley to prevent them from gathering and selling spent bullets, an activity they have been doing since the 1960s when US soldiers started using the range.

About 300 Aeta families live and till farms within the reservation, now covered with lahar and sand spewed out by Mt. Pinatubo during its 1991 eruptions.

On Thursday, Yambao left for Sta. Juliana to meet Aeta leaders and discuss ways to lessen the "disruptions" that the VFA-related training will create in the livelihood activities of the Aetas.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development and the US Air Force are expected to provide food rations to the Aetas during the period of displacement.

Pinatubo treks

As Crow Valley is also the easiest and shortest route to Mt. Pinatubo, Yambao said treks to the world-famous volcano would not be suspended. Some 100 Aetas earn from working as guides and porters.

Yambao said the schedules of gunnery exercises and the treks would be synchronized, with concern for the safety of the Aetas and the tourists.

Yambao said the VFACom has money for claims for damages but added that efforts are being made to avoid risks to lives and properties in Crow Valley.

He also said incidence of low-flying aircraft would be avoided during the exercise, an activity that residents in Angeles City and Mabalacat in Pampanga have complained about in last year's exercises. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northeastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Northeastern Mindanao will experience partly cloudy to cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI34° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 25° Lo 14°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 28°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 21°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 26°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°
Tacloban	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	HI 35° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 25°
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Davao	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 25°

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Unemployment rate still high—GMA

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The prospect of landing a decent job for this year's graduates is not so bright as President Macapagal-Arroyo admitted on Wednesday that the present unemployment rate of 10.3 percent was "still high."

"But we hope that in the next one or three years, we could bring this (statistic) down," she said of the unemployment rate.

Ms Macapagal challenged the graduates to go to Mindanao.

"If we want to stop the war in Mindanao, we need more development, and there will be more job opportunities in Mindanao for the more adventurous of our graduates this year," she told the 966 members of the graduating class of the Enverga University during commencement exercises held at the university gymnasium.

She pointed out, however, that when she assumed the presidency last year, the unemployment rate was 11.3 percent.

Ms Macapagal said the government still needed to create more jobs for 2.4 million Filipinos until 2004.

"We have to scout for jobs, even on foreign soil," she stressed, but she quickly added that it was not her administration's policy to export labor.

"But if there is a demand, we have to screen those who would want to work abroad," she said.

Aside from the proverbial promise of the South, the President expressed hope for job prospects in the information and communication technology.

"We have the competitive edge on ICT. The Filipino workers rank No. 1 in the world in the field of ICT today. No. 1 among knowledge workers," she said.

The President added jobs were now available in the ICT sector.

She also disclosed a plan to upgrade the teaching of mathematics and science in colleges and universities.

The government, she said, would be hiring 20,000 new teachers this year, especially in the fields of science and math, to improve the quality of education for the new economy.

She spelled out the government's medium-term development plan to fight poverty, which included free enterprise and agricultural modernization.

Ms Macapagal also reiterated the administration's target of building 100,000 houses yearly for the workers and 50,000 for poor families.

She cited the significance of tourism in creating job opportunities for the new graduates.

"Tourism is a key employment generator," the President said as she made a pitch for her "holiday economics," which, she added, was now drawing favorable feedback.

MACAPAGAL

Bank loses ₱2M to robbers

(THE FOLLOWING story should have been used with the headline above instead of the story on the explosions in Zamboanga del Sur and Cotabato City, which appeared yesterday in the Across the Nation on Page 14. We apologize for the grave error.—Ed.)

CEBU CITY—Five heavily armed men wearing black bonnets took over P2 million in store earnings in a daring early afternoon heist at the North Reclamation area here.

Police have yet to identify the group of robbers who waylaid the service vehicle of the Rural Bank of Subandaku based in Mandaue City on Wednesday.

The vehicle, boarded by bank employees, had just left the White Gold Club and was leaving the superstore's parking lot when it was blocked by an old light blue Ford Laser at around 1:30 p.m.

The employees were on their way to deposit the store's P2.1 million to the Land Bank of the Philippines branch on P. Del Rosario Branch downtown.

The heist was over in five minutes, prompting police authorities to believe that a professional group was behind it.

Police said they were still determining if the group was also responsible for the P4-million Land Bank robbery in October last year.

Witnesses said the Ford Laser had been parked for a while in front of the store. When the bank's service car was leaving the compound, the gunmen immediately blocked it at the gate, they said.

One of the robbers poked an Armalite rifle at the car's driver, bank guard Magdaleno Endab. The rest smashed a side window of the car and disarmed the three other guards who accompanied the teller, Ryan Navaja.

One of the security guards of the compound, Patricio Hopia, fired at the robbers, who shot back, forcing Hopia to give up his chase.

More than three hours later, the Ford Laser was recovered at the compound of Go Transport on Third Avenue at the North Reclamation area, near the store.

Alan Cartesiano, an employee of Go Transport, said the vehicle was hidden among several container vans.

Cartesiano said a bonnet and bloodstains were found inside the car. ***Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Fire gobbles up forest area in San Pablo City

SAN PABLO CITY—A raging fire gobbled up more than 200 hectares of a forested mountain area in Barangay San Cristobal here and one village in Dolores, Quezon.

The fire, which began Wednesday afternoon, was put out on Thursday night. It had earlier threatened to destroy an entire reforestation site planted with mahogany trees.

City Mayor Florante "Boy" Aquino said on Thursday that the only way to stop the fire was by spraying water from the air.

Aquino said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in the city and the province had sent their top officials and forest guards to the burning areas to supervise firefighting efforts.

He said the incident was an ordinary occurrence in the city's urban, as well as mountainous, areas during summer, "especially when . . . the heat is long and intense."

The mayor said he suspected that the fire was caused by the ignition of solid rocks accumulated in the mountains.

Concerned residents,. however, did not discount the possibility that the fire was caused by slash-and-burn farmers. ***Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Brush fires endanger mummies

BAGUIO CITY—Uncontrolled brush fires that have hit lush forests and grassy, areas in Benguet this summer are slowly creeping toward the burial caves of some of the province's revered mummies, a local museum official said on Wednesday.

At risk are the centuries-old mummified remains of an Ibaloi woman, which is perched on a cliff side of Kapangan, Benguet, said Ike Picpican, curator of the Saint Louis University.

Picpican said the mummy, whose chest is slowly decaying, lies in a cave a few kilometers from an adjacent mountainside that was gutted by fire.

He said the Kapangan government has installed a metal gate in the mummy's cave to protect it.

"I was just there on April 8. The mummy was very near the fire that seemed only a few days old. The ashes clung to our clothes when we passed through (the mountains). I was told that another mummy was destroyed by a previous fire there some years back," Picpican said.

The museum official visited the site of the Kapangan mummy with a team of scholars.

"This was just one fire. Many more have been hitting other towns like Kabayan (where the more famous mummies are kept in burial caves)," he added.

Forest fires have hit parts of Benguet, although the unusually intense heat this summer has been starting fires, which have already exceeded the average number, the Bureau of Fire Protection showed.

The agency, however, has yet to tally its records. It could not estimate the total area affected by forest and brush fires.

Picpican said he has alerted Gov. Raul Molintas about the mummies' predicament.

He said he was preparing a formal request to Kapangan Mayor Rogelio Leon to protect the mummy. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

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INQUIRER Visayas
Editor Jun Bandayrel ● Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Negros holds 'mother of all festivals'

By Carla P. Gomez
Bacolod City

TRIBESMEN walking on coals, a thanksgiving to the god of agriculture who dwells on Mt. Kanlaon, quack doctors casting spells, and a princess offering her life for justice.

These are among the features of 32 festivals of Negros Occidental being staged daily at the yearly "Panaad sa Negros Festival" at the Panaad Park and Stadium in Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City.

The event kicked off yesterday and will last until April 21.

The best of the festivals held throughout the year in various parts of Negros Occidental are brought to the Panaad for what is known as the "mother of all festivals."

The Panaad Festival, started in 1993 as a thanksgiving celebration, also brings together the 15 cities and 19 towns of the province in theme booths that showcase their history, culture, tourism and trade.

A "Crafts of the World" exhibit on the ground floor at the right wing of the Panaad Stadium also aims to promote Negros ethnic craft for export.

The Designers Guild of Negros Island Inc., the Association of Negros Producers and the ANP Foundation for Enterprise Development Inc. have chosen culture crafts from each town and city to be showcased in the exhibit.

Towns and cities will compete for the Panaad Design Excellence awards.

Fruits and veggie galore

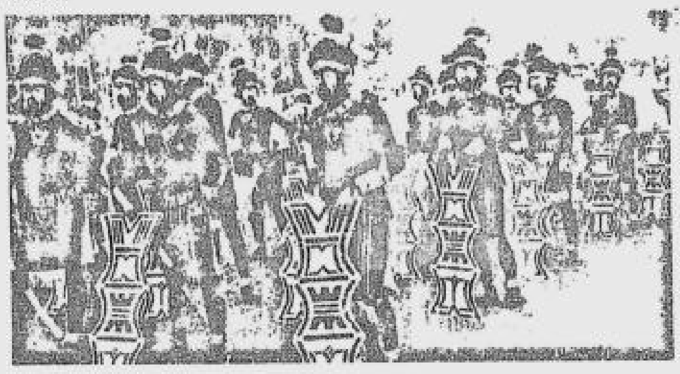
An added attraction to the festival is the showcasing of 25 kinds of fruits and vegetables on a two-hectare lot by the eastern entrance of the Panaad Park.

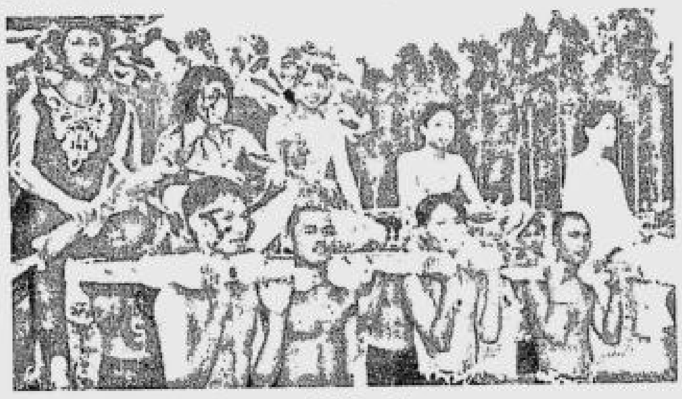
The fruits and vegetables, all high-variety crops from Taiwan seeds, will be harvested during the festival and sold at low prices, Gov. Joseph Maranon says.

The high-value crops are being planted to encourage replication throughout the province to promote food security, Maranon says. They include radishes, cauliflowers, cabbages, *patola*, string beans, tomatoes, squash, lettuce, broccoli, hot pepper and eggplant.

A NEGROS beauty at the festival.

THE BABAYLAN performers of Bago City casting their cures in dance.


THE SINULOG performers of Kabankalan.


THE KANSILAY performers of Silay City.

Other attractions of the festival are the daily *baratilyos* at the park where marked-down goods from various districts will be sold, and the search for the Lin-ay Sang Negros, according to provincial board member Angelito Colmenares, the festival's executive director.

But what is expected to keep drawing the crowd back to the Panaad are the daily dance performances of groups representing four to five festivals. Performances start at 4 p.m.

On opening day, the fiesta presentation was staged by Bago City's Babaylan Festival performers, La Castellana's Bailes de Luces dancers, La Carlota City's Pasalamat, San Carlos City's Pinta Flores and Salvador Benedicto's Kali-kalihan Festival.

Today, Cadiz City will present the Dinagsa Festival where tribesmen painted with soot will dance to the beats of drums. Escalante will stage the best of its Manlambus Festival, while Moises Padilla and Calatrava towns will showcase performances from their fiestas.

On April 14, the colorful Pinta Flores dancers of San Carlos, the Ati tribes of Kabankalan's Sinulog Festival and the mask-wearing performers of Bacolod's MassKara will be presented.

'Lin-ay sang Negros'

Performers from the festivals of Hinoba-an, Himamaylan and Pulupandan will provide the fiesta presentation entertainment on April 15, while Pontevedra, Talisay and Toboso will be the festival performers on April 16.

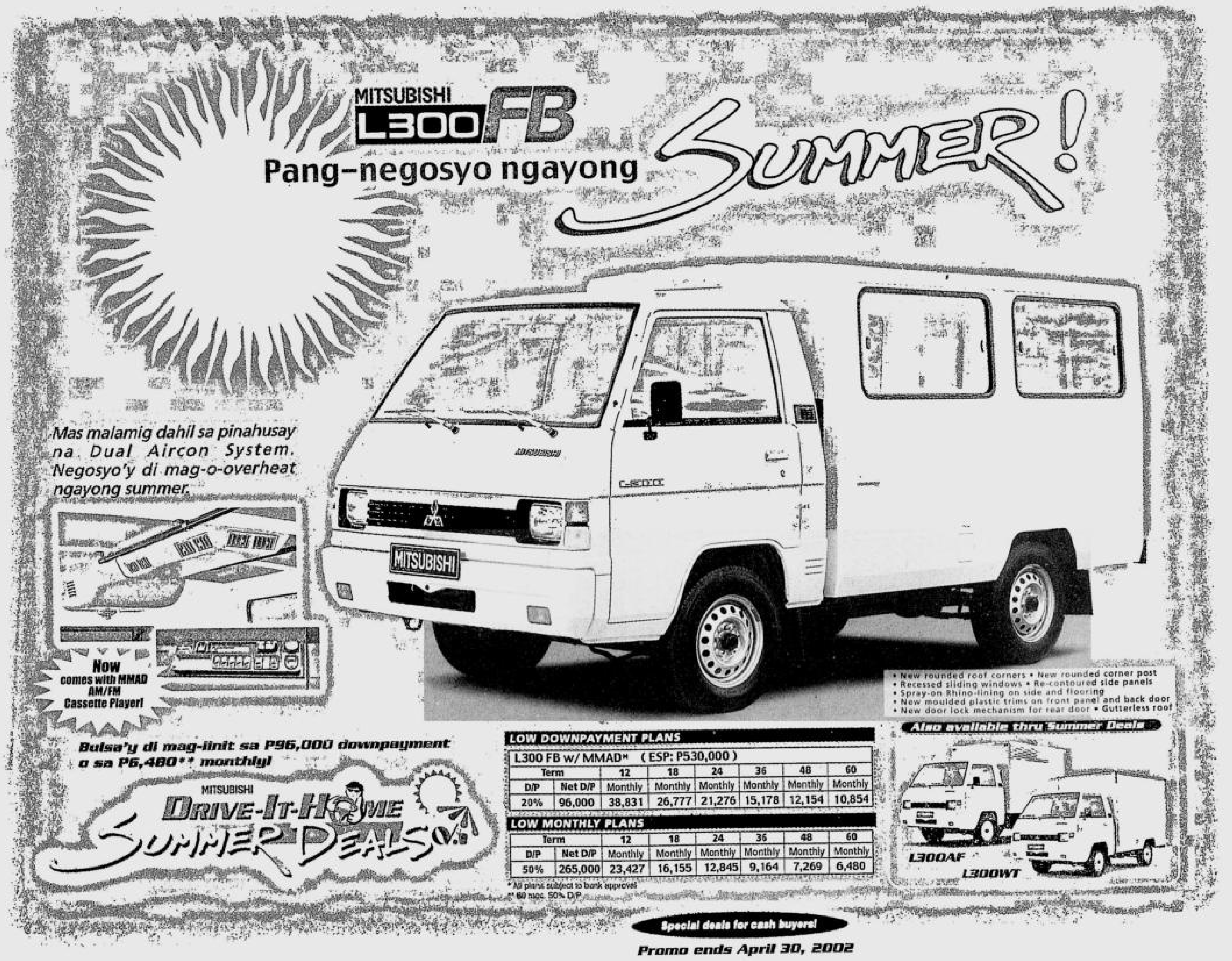
The Lubay-lubay of Cauayan, Kisi-kisi of Ilog and the Hinugyaw of Hinigaran will take center stage on April 17, while EB Magalona, San Enrique and Isabela will present their fiestas on April 18.

The Pasundayag of Valladolid, Kadalag-an of Victorias Pabalhas sa Tablas of Candoni and Pasaway of Sagay City will be the main attractions on April 19.

On April 20, beauties representing the various towns and cities will vie for the "Lin-ay sang Negros" title at the Panaad Stadium.

To cap the celebration on April 21 will be the Sinigayan Festival of Sagay City, Tinabu-ay of Murcia, Pinta Puto of Manapla and Kansilay of Silay City.

The 10-day festival will be an activity-packed event designed to showcase the best of Negros, says Colmenares.



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MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Ferry survivors: Where's that help?

From page A1

and consoling words for the victims?" the teacher from Metro Manila said. "Some of them were still in state of shock."

When the INQUIRER told her that a company representative had attended a press briefing and announced that the firm would shoulder everything, Peñales retorted: "They have the gall to attend a press conference but their victims are all here, suffering because of their monumental negligence."

All the survivors in the room said they were left on their own during the ordeal.

"No crewmen gave assistance to us. Not even a siren as a warning was heard during the fire," said Peñales' sister, Evelyn, even though she was in pain while speaking.

Reynante Arnado, whose father Reynold suffered third-degree burns in the upper portion of his face, told the INQUIRER that a Montenegro representative had visited the ward last night.

"But the man did not give us anything. He just left a telephone number at the nurses' station with the direction that we call him if we needed anything," Arnado said.

But no one from the room bothered to call, he said. "I'm not sure if I'm interested," he said.

Grounded ships

Vice Admiral Reuben Lista, chief of the Philippine Coast Guard, said that all of Montenegro's 12 passenger ships had been grounded, to check for safety infractions. The Coast Guard and Marina are also going to inspect all vessels nationwide due to the tragedy, he added.

He said that of the 12 ships, five have already been given the green light to sail again. Six are going to be inspected in the coming days while one will be reinspected, because its crew failed to react adequately during an emergency drill.

"The chief's mate, who is in charge of the ship's safety, did not know what to do when I shouted at him about an (imaginary) emergency. He just froze. So you can just imagine what he would do in a real-life situation," Lista said.

In Manila, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez created a "special board of marine inquiry" to probe the causes of the fire that broke out on Thursday morning. The seven-man board, headed by Rear Admiral Domingo Estera of the Coast Guard, has 30 days to submit its report.

After arriving in this city at past 4 p.m. with Quezon Gov. Wilfrido Enverga and Lucena City Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr., the President visited Viray Hall inside the Lucena West Elementary School, which had 15 victims lying in state. After condoling with the survivors, Ms Macapagal handed an envelope to each close relative of the victims. According to the staff of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the envelopes each contained P3,000 in cash.

The PCSO is also shouldering the hospitalization expenses of all the victims.

As the President approached the casket of Barana's daughter, Barana broke down and cried. She told her what she had earlier told the INQUIRER.

"I did not know how to swim. My other child had broken loose from me when a man had kicked her and my hand was caught in a rope. That is why I could not let go of my daughter, even though I could feel that she was no longer alive," she had said in Filipino.

In tears, she told the same story to the President, who was visibly shocked.

After her 30-minute stay with the grieving relatives, she motored to the Quezon Memorial Hospital and also visited the other victims.

Missing assistance

At the Dalahican pier, at least 20 survivors were waiting for assistance from Montenegro.

"One bus of survivors left for Manila yesterday after receiving P100 each from the city government. But how about our missing belongings? We don't even have clothes except what we're wearing," said one of the Masbateños still quartered at the fishing port ice plant.

The relatives of two missing stewardesses from Batangas also asked the INQUIRER for help. They said they were informed by some crewmen who survived that the two stewardesses were trapped in one of the air-conditioned cabins.

"But no one from Montenegro could tell us when they could climb the ship and look for our missing relatives," the father of stewardess Erlyn Gutierrez said.

Investigators have not yet been able to board the vessel, said Lieutenant Commander Elpidio Gunio, the district Coast Guard chief, because the ship is still on fire.

"No one has been able to board the ship because of the heat," Mayor Talaga also told local radio.

Rhoel Babao of Montenegro Shipping said the firm was collating the names of the "alleged passengers" of MV Maria Carmela—those who were not on the passenger manifest. "If it can be proven that the names given to us were really passengers of the ship, the persons concerned would receive whatever compensation are due to the victims."

"We will take care of the passengers even if they were not in the manifest. But we have to validate first the claims," he pointed out.

When pressed by the INQUIRER if the persons with unlisted names would still be paid by Montenegro if proven that they were indeed passengers, Babao declined to make a categorical answer.

"I would not comment on that," he replied.

He said the casualties will receive at least P100,000 each from the ship's insurance company.

Possible causes

Admiral Lista said the Coast Guard is looking at four possible causes that could have started the fire on Thursday.

One is that somebody threw a cigarette butt into a pile of copra (dried coconut meat) in the cargo section.

Another is that some drivers were cooking inside their trucks, also in the cargo hold, and this might have started the blaze.

A third is that the copra got too near an exhaust pipe and ignited into flames.

"I will not yet say what's the fourth possibility. It's not good to hear and we are still checking that," Lista said.

He clarified, though, that M/V Maria Carmela had enough life vests for its passengers.

"There were 34 life vests for children and 335 for adults. A (general inspection) was done on the ship just this March," Lista said.

"The life vests were put under the beds. The passengers must have panicked," he added.

Lista said the Board of Marine Inquiry might take some time "since it is like a regular court."

"We might get a technical" if we are too hasty. And of course, there will be affidavits and counter-affidavits," he added.

Lieutenant Commander Lorenzo Princesa said more than 290 people were aboard the vessel, which was authorized to carry 334.

But the 14 vehicles in the cargo hold, some of them delivery trucks, had "drivers and escorts, and they were not listed in the manifest," Princesa said. They were not listed because, unlike the trucks, the drivers were not paying passengers.

Counting the dead

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—A day after the Tayabas Bay tragedy, confusion over the total number of passengers aboard the ill-fated MV Maria Carmela continued.

Montenegro Shipping Lines, the operator of the 680-ton vessel, insisted there were only 284 persons on board: 243 passengers and 41 crew.

However, Vice Mayor Ruby Sanchez of Masbate City, who was at the press briefing called by the Lucena City Disaster Coordinating Council yesterday, claimed that some 43 other passengers were not on the passenger manifest.

"And most of them are missing. We already made the rounds of the hospitals and funeral parlors," Sanchez told newsmen.

The only figure that has been agreed upon is the total number of dead bodies recovered: 26, including three that have not yet been identified.

Supt. Primo Rivera, head of the Philippine National Police Maritime Group in the region, supported the claims of Sanchez.

"Based on information that we received from several relatives of the missing persons, they told us that the names of their relatives aboard the ship were not reflected on the manifest," Rivera disclosed. He said his office has recorded a total of 43 missing persons, which were not listed as official passengers.

Rhoel Babao, Montenegro's representative, said that based on company records, it appeared that the ship had actually a total of 28 crewmembers on board—including 13 on-the-job trainees. Six of the crew are missing.

But Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. compared the local disaster coordination center's tally of 313 and that of Montenegro's 284: "We have a difference of 29 passengers that are not in the passengers' manifest, we will look for (them)."

But Sanchez remained adamant and maintained that Montenegro Shipping should pay for the damages to all the passengers, listed or not listed, on the manifest.

She cited the case of the city engineer of Masbate, who, she said, has a trucking firm in the island. "They (the engineer and his family) were exempted from paying the fares because they had a truck on board. But their names were not on the passengers' manifest," he pointed out.

The six missing crewmembers were Eva Villanueva and Erlyn Gutierrez, the ship's stewardess; oiler Robby Pilon; messman Joey Dizon, and apprentice seamen Jayson Cometa and Pedrito Caaway.

Ransom talks ongoing

From page A1

Times, come less than a month after the State Department announced a change in the decades-old US hostage negotiation policy.

The Bush administration shifted the policy by pledging to "make every effort" to gain the release of any American kidnapped overseas.

Previously, the US government focused on protecting its diplomats and workers around the world and didn't review every private kidnapping case "to the extent to which it would be examined now," State Department Richard Boucher said at the time.

But the State Department also reaffirmed its commitment to some parts of the original policy, ruling out paying ransom or making other concessions. It advised corporations with kidnapped employees to do the same.

In Manila, National Security Adviser Roilo Golez yesterday denied the report by The Washington Times that private organizations had paid $300,000 in ransom for the Burnhams.

Dubious

Golez said the report was "doubly dubious" as it came from a tabloid which had quoted unnamed sources. "The story has no basis. (Payment of) ransom is against US and Philippine government policy," Golez said.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen raided the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan last May 27 and abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos. All of the hostages were taken to Abu Sayyaf strongholds on Basilan Island.

The Abu Sayyaf seized other captives on Basilan last year. Most of the hostages escaped or were released for ransom. Others were killed, including American Guillermo Sobero.

In March, the group released a video of the American hostages. The video showed the Burnhams wearing the same clothes as in a video from November, but Martin was lacking the handcuffs he wore previously and Gracia wasn't wearing the Muslim headdress she used before.

Reading a list of five demands, Martin Burnham said the Abu Sayyaf rebels were "targeting US, European and citizens of other Western nations" because of the "continued desecration of the island (sic) of Arabia, especially Mecca and Medina, by the presence of US and European troops and their business interests."

The bandits also wanted Western nations to end their support for Israel and lift sanctions on Iraq and Libya.

In Basilan, military authorities arrested an Abu Sayyaf bandit. Another surrendered in Zamboanga City and could provide valuable information on the whereabouts of the American couple.

Itting Sailani, who gave himself up, is undergoing a military debriefing, military spokesperson Captain Noel Detoyato told reporters.

Sailani is part of an Abu Sayyaf unit holding the Burnhams.

Detoyato also disclosed that police and military intelligence agents arrested Abu Sayyaf bandit Arium Mustakim at a bus terminal in Zamboanga City. ***AP, with reports from Martin P. Marfil and AFP***

Int'l media group pleads for Arlyn

From page A1

Since then, rumors have abounded that she had invented her kidnapping.

Even her own colleagues have criticized her for her close links to the Abu Sayyaf and for seeking stories at all cost. Last November, she was the first journalist to interview and to take a video footage of the Burnhams since their close to a year-long captivity.

In her letter to the INQUIRER, she told her fellow journalists: "You have judged me, accused me and crucified me. But I don't blame you. I understand the industry, and I do realize you are reporting based on just a limited point of view of the entire story."

Ongoing operation

In Zamboanga City, the military has intensified its search and rescue operation for De la Cruz.

Col. Romeo Tolentino, commander of the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade based in Sulu, told the INQUIRER that based on recent information, De la Cruz is being held by disgruntled Abu Sayyaf members and former MNLF fighters "somewhere in Patikul (Jolo)."

"I cannot give more details about it so as not to hamper our ongoing operation," he said.

Earlier, the military reported that De la Cruz's captors were demanding P5 million but in her letter to Sen. Noli de Castro, she said the kidnappers wanted P11 million although they would reportedly accept P1 million as down payment.

Tolentino said the search and rescue operation was launched this week.

"As soon as De la Cruz's letter reached Sen. de Castro, informing him of her situation, we immediately initiated this rescue effort," he said.

Tolentino said that before De la Cruz, producer of the Iglesia ni Kristo Net 25's news program went missing, she had had visited and informed him of her "plan to penetrate the Abu Sayyaf camp (in Sulu)."

"She was escorted by the bodyguards of former politician Munib Estino," he said.

Despite the rescue operation, Tolentino said he was convinced that De la Cruz "might just be cooking up something for her story involving Estino.

In a separate interview, Estino denied involvement in any story allegedly being hatched by De la Cruz, as Tolentino suspects.

Estino admitted De la Cruz interviewed him on Nov.19 in Zamboanga City.

He also said the missing journalist sought the military's security for a news coverage in Sulu from Jan.12 to 15.

Estino, a former Sulu vice governor, said he learned of De la Cruz's plight on Feb. 20.

He said retired police general Manuel Pepino had asked for help to rescue De la Cruz.

"But I told him, I can no longer entertain such request, I might be misunderstood again," Estino said.

He also said De la Cruz personally sent him text messages at least five times in February asking for help.

"She also managed to make a call, she was then crying asking for my help. Because she said I know the people who picked her up," he said.

Estino said he tried to intercede but the kidnappers rejected his plea.

In February, the military began an off-and-on search for De la Cruz. Their official version of her disappearance was that Abu Sayyaf guerrillas kidnapped her in a dispute over money which she allegedly received for selling the Burnham video tape to a US TV network. The INQUIRER has learned that the sale was in fact contracted between the TV network and Net 25.

In her letter, De la Cruz had a different version of why she was kidnapped. She had been suspected of being a courier of the ransom money for the Burnhams.

After discovering she was not carrying the ransom demanded by the Abu Sayyaf fighters in exchange for freeing the American hostages, the bandits stripped her and slapped her, De la Cruz's letter said. She was threatened with execution for more than two weeks and then handed over to another armed group, which at first demanded a ransom of more than P40 million before reducing it to P11 million. She said in the letter she was afraid she would be killed and asked Filipino journalists to help her.

Reporters Without borders has nine national sections in Austria, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), Representatives in Abidjan, Bangkok, Buenos Aires, Istanbul, Montreal, Moscow, New York, Tokyo and Washington and more than a hundred correspondents worldwide.

Erap speaks Japanese?

From page A1

yesterday—refusing to plead to a second perjury charge and even suggesting the judge read it to him in Japanese.

Asked whether he wanted the charges read to him in English or Filipino, Estrada told Presiding Judge Minita Nazario: "I don't care whether it is Japanese."

Estrada is not known to be fluent in Japanese, but in movies he and his fellow actor and best friend Fernando Poe Jr. made popular many years ago, the two portrayed Rambo-like heroes who fought Japanese invaders during the Second World War.

The judge refused to be drawn into an argument and had the court clerk read the charge sheet in English. But the former President did not back off. Asked to plead, he said: "As I have said earlier, I refuse to enter a plea. I don't want to take part in the proceedings."

Nazario had the clerk enter a not guilty plea for him.

The ex-President was also cocky outside the courtroom, telling reporters he would have gotten a higher trust rating in the latest surveys had he been able to "sing or plant rice"—a transparent dig at President Macapagal-Arroyo's latest publicity-oriented activities.

"I'm still thankful because I still got 31 percent (of those polled) trusting me even if I'm already in jail," he told reporters covering his trial at the Sandiganbayan. "What more if I can still go out, if I can sing or plant rice," he said with a wry smile.

Pleading "delicadeza," the ousted President said he would rather not comment on Ms Macapagal's own falling survey fortunes.

"It happens to all presidents," he said.

Appearance waived

Later in the hearing, the ex-President turned genial. When Nazario asked him if the three-man special division "can be assured" that Estrada will stop making "baseless" accusations against the court—that it is biased and out to railroad his conviction—Estrada replied: "Yes, your honor."

His answer allowed Nazario to restore Estrada's waiver of appearance—that is, his right not to attend his trial. Last month, the court had suspended the waiver in reaction to harsh statements from Estrada and his former lawyers criticizing the court.

The former matinee idol and action star arrived for the 9 a.m. arraignment looking well-rested, freshly scrubbed, and with a new haircut. He wore his signature *barong*, the embroidery of which bore his initials "JPE."

One of his court-appointed lawyers, former Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Manuel Pamaran, sensed that Estrada was having difficulty standing, and offered him his chair. Estrada was thus arraigned in his seat instead of on his feet, deviating from courtroom protocol.

Pamaran told the court the defense was not ready to "intelligently assist" Estrada because of his refusal to cooperate with the lawyers appointed for him from the Public Attorneys' Office.

Already detained on the capital charge of plunder, Estrada had earlier been charged with perjury for allegedly understating his net worth in 1999. The second perjury case covers 1998. He is also accused of using an alias to hide alleged ownership of a P3.3-billion secret bank account.

Estrada, who turns 65 next week, has been in detention since on April 25, 2001 on charges filed three months after he was forced to step down amid massive anti-corruption protests. He has denied any wrongdoing during his 31 months in office.

Travel request

Incorporated in yesterday's proceedings was the third hearing on Estrada's travel request, when his de officio lawyers presented a new witness, his personal physician Lorenzo Hocson.

Contrary to his earlier statements that he was "no longer interested," Estrada said he was still pursuing his motion to travel to the United States to undergo knee surgery.

Asked by Justice Edilberto Sandoval if this was so, Estrada answered "Yes, your Honor."

"My (arthritic) knees cannot be operated here but in the US. And I have no intention of escaping or going into exile," he said.

Under cross-examination by State Prosecutor Robert Kallos, Hocson admitted that the kind of surgery required for Estrada's knees is actually performed in the country.

Himself a surgeon, Hocson said total knee joint replacement has been performed by Filipino bone surgeons in leading local hospitals such as the Makati Medical Center, St. Luke's, and even the government-run Philippine General Hospital.

But Hocson maintained that a surgeon cannot operate on a patient "without the consent" of the latter "except on emergencies."

In a post-hearing interview, he said: "There's no question that the surgery can be performed here, but it's still up to the patient to choose the doctor (in) whom he has full trust and confidence."

Hocson said that as early as 1998, American surgeon Christopher Mow had already recommended knee surgery for Estrada, but Estrada kept deferring it and took pain relievers instead "for he was too busy" as President.

Prior to Hocson's testimony, Nazario ruled that Estrada lawyers did not need to present any doctor-witness to argue whether a detainee like Estrada has "rights" to obtain treatment from a doctor in a hospital of his choice.

"There's no need for any witness on that. (The 'rights' issue) is already up to the appreciation of the court," she told Persida Acosta of the Public Attorneys Office, who conducted Hocson's direct examination.

In a post-hearing press briefing, Estrada said that while he had declared his intention to pursue his travel request, he said he is not necessarily extending cooperation with his counsel de oficio regarding the matter.

"I cannot cooperate with them because I have never accepted their services. Besides I've already told the court," he said.

Dante Ang's hand . . .

From page A1

But Tiglao, who will take a leave starting Monday to assume a visiting professor fellowship at the Kyoto University in Japan, yesterday assured reporters that he was coming back to reassume his post.

He defended his decision to go on leave this early: "I think it's the best time to take this leave because things have normalized. The threats to political stability have practically vanished."

According to the source, the President asked Ang to be press secretary after Tiglao's predecessor Noel Cabrera quit the post.

The source said Ang had consulted him on whether to accept the offer. Ang was supposedly "scared" of the Commission on Appointments, which would put him through the confirmation process, and "there would be a case of conflict of interest" considering his being publisher of two newspapers—Manila Times and Kabayan.

The President supposedly also asked Ang to be her chief of staff in place of Renato Corona, whom she nominated to the Supreme Court. But Ang also declined, said the source, who described Ang as "like a brother" to him.

No turf war

But Tiglao denied that he was taking off because of infighting among the President's advisers, particularly those involved in media and communication concerns.

He said there was no turf war between him and Ang, pointing out that while he and the President's publicist had "different ideas in communication," they were "the best of friends."

Tiglao, whose appointment as press secretary took effect only last April 1, said he was prepared to cut short his six-month fellowship if a "real crisis" should develop during his absence.

But he said he would not mind if the President found "a very urgent need" to appoint a new press secretary while he was away. "I'll be happy with that," he said.

He reiterated that the fellowship was a commitment he made before joining the government last year as spokesperson for Ms Macapagal.

Tiglao said the portion of the statement he read Thursday should not be taken as a valedictory.

The portion in question read: "I appreciate very much the President's trust and confidence in me these past 12 months, and for giving me the rarest of opportunities to serve our people." But Tiglao clarified that he just wanted to take "the opportunity to make a statement on the past year."

Secretary Silvestre "Yongyong" Afable Jr., chief of the Presidential Management Staff and Ms Macapagal's principal speechwriter, will be in charge of the Office of the Press Secretary in Tiglao's absence.

Press Undersecretary Manuel Sanchez will assist Afable in announcing and explaining the President's policies and decisions.

Deeper reason

Lawmakers are not convinced that Tiglao's reason for leaving is a commitment he made with Kyoto University.

"There must be a deeper reason to this," said Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, who noted that it was highly unusual for a press secretary to leave his post to teach at a foreign university.

"It must be a commitment to the government of Japan that would result in a diplomatic crisis if it were not honored," Villarama said. "Otherwise, it is pure and simple dereliction of duty (on Tiglao's part) and an embarrassment to the (President)."

The congressman, who once served as Ms Macapagal's chief of staff, also pointed out that Tiglao "should have simply stated the truth."

Negros Occidental Rep. Jose Apolinario Lozada Jr., who served then President Fidel Ramos as appointments secretary and foreign affairs adviser, said Tiglao's move constituted abandonment of the President.

"I think he should postpone his travel. You don't run away when your boss is in trouble," Lozada said, referring to the President's dropped ratings as reflected in a survey by the Social Weather Stations.

Venezuelan president forced to quit

From page A1

WHEN the smoke of violence cleared at Venezuela's presidential palace, its president, Hugo Chavez, had to resign under pressure from the military.

AP

Anselmi, who was present at the time.

Pedro Carmona, head of Venezuela's largest business association, announced he would head a transitional government to be installed later Friday. He also announced an immediate end to a general strike called earlier this week against Chavez.

At 3 a.m. Friday, Chavez, wearing military fatigues and a red beret—as he did when he led a failed 1992 coup against then President Carlos Andres Perez—left the palace for Fort Tiuna, Caracas' largest army base. He was being held there while investigators decide what charges he could face for Thursday's violence, said army commander Gen. Efrain Vasquez Velasco.

Thousands of Chavez opponents celebrated overnight, waving flags, blowing whistles and jamming a main highway in Caracas. They planned a victory rally later Friday.

Vasquez Velasco said 95 percent of army forces were under his control, as well as all airports and major military bases. Incoming international commercial flights were canceled until further notice.

"We ask the Venezuelan people's forgiveness for today's events," Vasquez Velasco said. "Mr. President, I was loyal to the end, but today's deaths cannot be tolerated."

Rooftop snipers

Chavez quit just hours after at least 13 people were killed and 110 wounded during a 150,000-strong opposition demonstration in downtown Caracas. Chavez had ordered National Guard troops and civilian gunmen, including rooftop snipers, to stop the marchers from reaching the palace, military officers said.

The rapid developments stunned this oil-rich yet poverty-stricken nation, which witnessed one of the biggest civilian demonstrations against Chavez's three-year rule. It came three days after Chavez vowed to crush the general strike called by Venezuela's largest business and labor groups, and an oil workers' protest that severely cut production in the world's fourth-largest exporter of petroleum—and third-largest supplier to the United States.

Chavez's ouster will lead to an increase in oil production and exports, according to sources within the state oil monopoly Petroleos de Venezuela, who added that company officials are meeting to bring operations back to normal as soon as possible. A company board appointed by Chavez is expected to resign, the sources said.

During Thursday's protest, National Guard troops fired tear gas at the front ranks of marchers bearing sticks and throwing rocks to keep them away from the palace. Tear gas drifted into the presidential compound. Rooftop snipers and Chavez supporters repeatedly fired upon the protesters—and even ambulance crews trying to evacuate the wounded.

Photographer slain

Among the dead Thursday was Jorge Tortoza, a 45-year-old photographer with Diario 2001 newspaper. As many as 110 people were wounded, Greater Caracas Mayor Alfredo Pena said.

"I urge Venezuelans to maintain calm, to keep faith, to continue working on the road toward democracy, freedom and peace," said retired Gen. Guaicaipuro Lameda, who until February headed the Petroleos de Venezuela. "It's with sadness that to reach this point, so many people had to die, so many wounded."

As the bloodbath unfolded, Chavez ordered five Caracas television stations off the air—charging they were inciting violence. Most Venezuelans were denied images of "Chavistas" repeatedly firing on unarmed protesters, bodies lying in pools of blood on the streets, and hooded thugs attacking police until after the military rebelled.

Chavez was elected president in 1998 and took office the following year. In a series of election and referendum victories, he revamped the Constitution, Congress and the courts, and extended his own four-year term to 2006.

Just three years into his presidency, Chavez's combative rhetoric had alienated virtually every sector of Venezuelan society: His attacks on the news media and Roman Catholic Church leaders, his refusal to consult with business leaders, his failed attempt to incorporate a defiant labor movement into his so-called "Bolivarian Revolution," named after personal idol and South American liberator Simon Bolivar. Chavez's government inherited a staggering $21 billion in back wages and pensions owed workers by previous administrations—a debt he was unable to pay.

Leftist links

His suspected ties to Colombia's leftist guerrillas angered many in the military and abroad, and his close ties to Cuban President Fidel Castro—and criticism of US bombings in Afghanistan after the September terror attacks—alienated Washington.

Domestic opponents claimed that his government was secretly arming neighborhood block committees known as "Bolivarian Circles" to defend his revolution. The Circles were created after Castro urged Chavez's supporters to organize during a 2000 visit.

Chavez also exasperated Venezuelans with his frequent use of "cadenas"—hours-long presidential speeches that by law had to be broadcast by all Venezuelan TV and radio stations.

For Chavez, who on Tuesday boasted he would remain president until 2021, the end came quickly.

Just last Friday, he refused to negotiate with Petroleos de Venezuela executives who were demanding that he remove the company board he had appointed Feb. 25. The executives claimed the appointees weren't qualified and were meant to strengthen Chavez's hold on a multinational corporation that cherishes its autonomy.

The oil executives launched a slowdown last week that cut production at the Paraguana refinery complex, one of the world's largest, to below 50 percent capacity. They closed another refinery, disrupted gasoline deliveries and all but stopped loading of oil tankers. Oil generates 80 percent of Venezuela's foreign earnings.

On Tuesday, the 1 million-member Venezuelan Workers Confederation and Fedecamaras, Venezuela's biggest business confederation, called a general strike to support the oil executives. They extended the strike indefinitely and demanded Thursday that Chavez resign. **AP**

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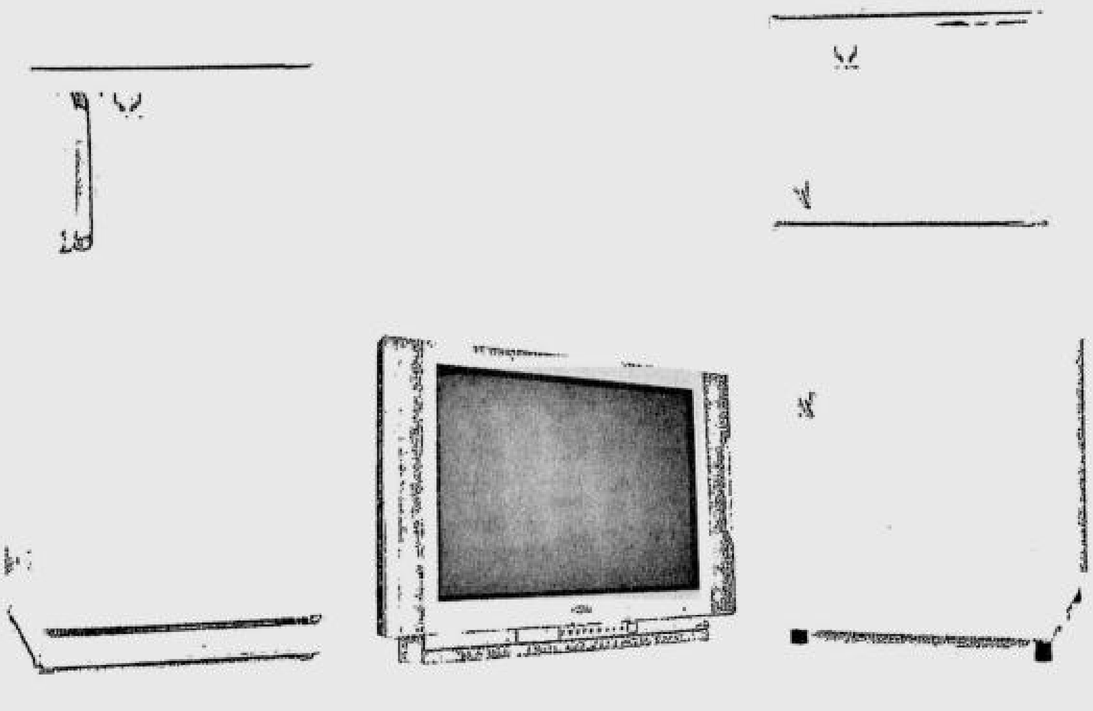

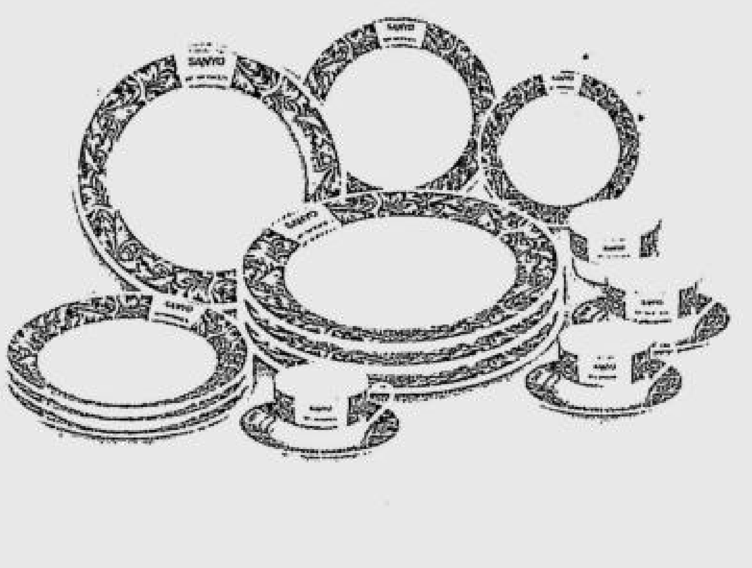

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SPORTS

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US Baseball results

Results: AMERICAN LEAGUE Toronto 11, N.Y. Yankees 3; Texas 7, Oakland 0; Kansas City 8, Boston 5; Baltimore 15, Tampa Bay 6; Cleveland 8, Minnesota 4; Seattle 8, Anaheim 4. **NATIONAL LEAGUE** St. Louis 6, Milwaukee 5; N.Y. Mets 3, Chicago Cubs 2; Los Angeles 4, San Francisco 3; Florida 7, Montreal 5; Cincinnati 3, Pittsburgh 2; Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 2; Arizona 8, Colorado 4. *AP*

Nestea volley beach begins

DEFENDING champion Foundation University of Dumaguete starts its quest for a second straight trip to the Boracay national finals when it clashes with Iloilo Doctor's College today at the start of the 6th Nestea Beach Volley VisMin qualifiers at the La Salle Greenhills sand courts. Power-hitting Kent Bulabon will partner with Isidro Bongcasa to jumpstart their bid against Glenn Gonzales and Renato Arzaga.

WG&A: Eric gets surprise package

WG&A jumped ship yesterday to join the bandwagon of Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) Chairman Eric R. Buhain, completing the air, land, and sea transportation benefits for national athletes, coaches, PSC employees, and the local sports community.

During the formal signing of memorandum of agreements yesterday between the PSC, Air Philippines, Philtranco and Centrum multi-vitamins, WG&A Shipping Lines surprised Chairman Buhain, who was celebrating his 32nd birthday.

"What better birthday gift can I receive than to gain support to uplift the welfare of our athletes and for the good of Philippine sports," Buhain said. "I would like to express my deepest gratitude to these private firms."

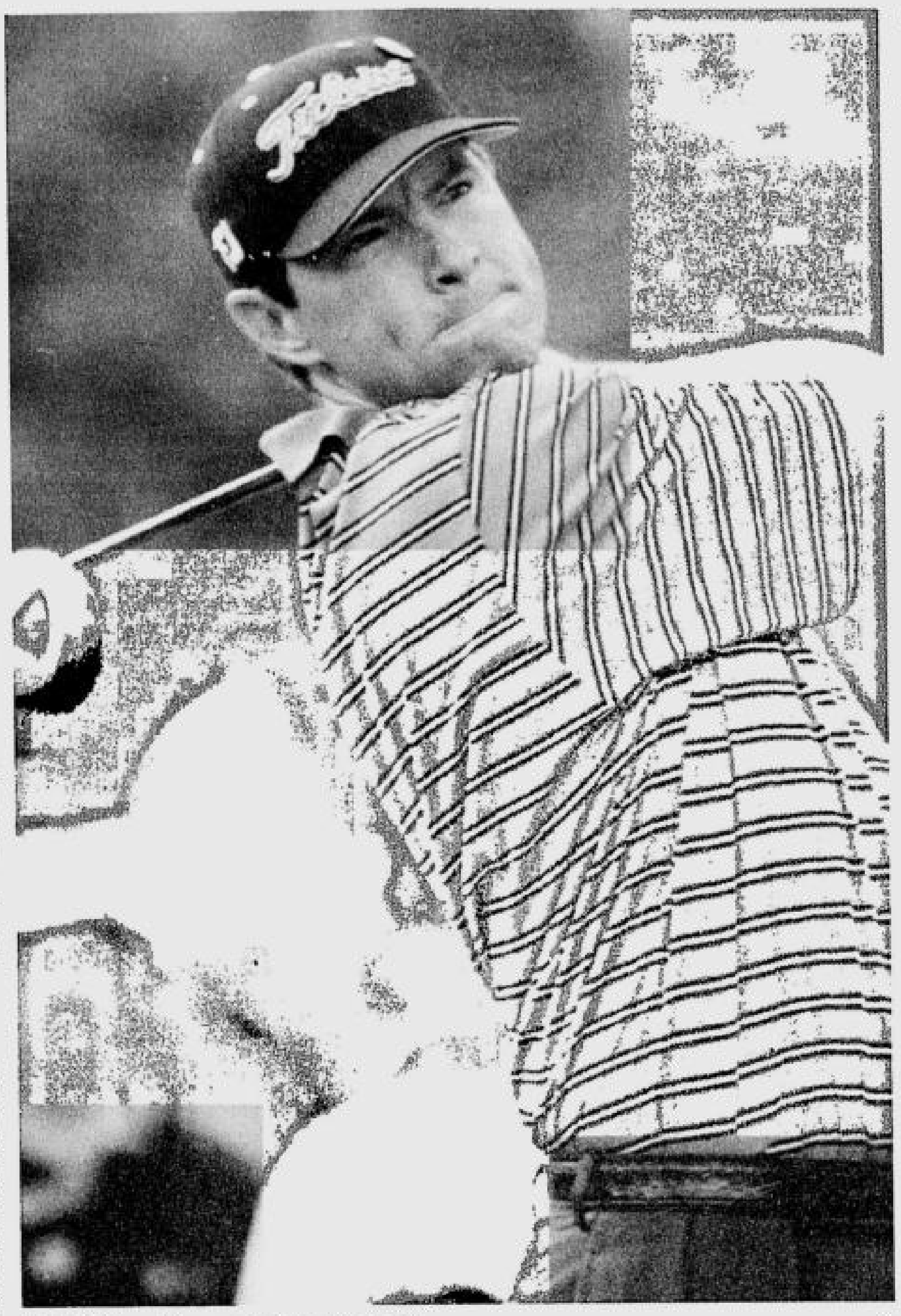
Bowling Hall of Famer Bong Coo, Asia's sprint queen Lydia de Vega, the magician Efren "Bata" Reyes and Southeast Asia's strongest man Jaime Sebastian were present together with several members of the national pool to witness the simple rites at the Diamond Hotel.

Joining Buhain were WG&A Shipping's Gina Virtusio, Centrum's Edwin Kuizo, representing its president Eduardo Mendoza, Air Philippines Vice President for Marketing and Sales Erlinda Santiago and Philtranco President and General Manager Alejandro Yague Jr.

Air Philippines, Philtranco and WG&A presented Buhain a surprise gift by raising their discounts on fare to 30 percent for national athletes, coaches and PSC employees.

Nets trip Magic, 101-99

ORLANDO, Florida—Kenyon Martin had 26 points, a season-high seven assists and a game-saving block in overtime Thursday, as the New Jersey Nets beat the Orlando Magic, 101-99, in NBA action. The Nets, winners of four of their past five games, reduced their magic number to clinch the Eastern Conference to one. **COMPLETE RESULTS:** Boston 104, Washington 99; Atlanta 121, Golden State 96; Memphis 79, Utah 78; L.A. Clippers 108, Minnesota 99; Sacramento 107, Chicago 103; Dallas 119, Seattle 108; San Antonio 93, Denver 78. *AP*



LOVE: "The soft greens definitely helped." AP

NGAP bets golf champs in Thailand

TEAM Philippines assembled an 877 total to rule the Groje NGC Junior Tournament Championship on Thursday at the Bangpakong Riverside Country Club in Bangkok.

The Filipino youngsters were sent to Bangkok through the renewed drive by the National Golf Association of the Philippines (NGAP) to strengthen the country's junior program.

Powered by rising stars Judson Eustaquio and Jayvie Marie Agojo, Team Philippines beat its counterparts from Myanmar and Thailand in the tournament confined to junior players.

Eustaquio fired rounds of 69-73-73-73 to lead the Filipinos who led from start to finish. The other Filipino bet in the boys division was Carlo Magno Santos Ocampo, who carded 72-73-80-74.

Agojo scored 75-73-73-77 while fellow girls' entry Katrina Gonzales submitted 79-84-76-73.

Thailand, behind hotshot Chinnarat Phadungsil, placed second with an 891 aggregate. Phadungsil fired 67-67-76-73 as the Thais relegated Team Myanmar to third place. Myanmar pooled a 981.

FELICIANO

"It's a good start," said NGAP president Rod Feliciano. "I have always believed in the ability of our young golfers to score it big in international competitions."

Andy Dumlao captained the delegation, whose stint was principally backed by DHL Wideworld Express.

Jolliwok hosts Paragua '30-game simul' today

GRANDMASTER candidate Mark Paragua takes on 30 enthusiasts and executives at 1 p.m. today at Jolliwok Restaurant (Wok Inn sa Kyusi) at No. 86 Lansdale Tower, Mother Ignacia, Timog Avenue, Quezon City. It will be Paragua's first public appearance after arriving from Europe last week where he spent five and a half months in a campaign that gave him his first grandmaster result in Mondariz, Spain. Call 288-1821, 287-3871 or 0916-3161723 for more details.

The 18-year-old Paragua missed one more GM result in France by half-a-point. But he said he has learned enough from these setbacks to ensure he nails down two more GM results to become the country's fourth grandmaster. The one-day active chess tournament, sponsored by Jolliwok Restaurant and Tabilog Cargo Forwarders in cooperation with the Active Chess center of Asia (ACCA), is expected to draw the best executive players in Metro Manila. Leading the cast are lawyers Jose Aspiras and Quirino Sagario, Ray Marras of Insular Life, engineer Rodrigo Niadas, businessman Douglas Peña and dentist Jenny Mayor. Tournament director is National Master Andrew Vasquez while the arbiters are NM Erwin Carag and Joey Moseros.

US MASTERS

It's only Love; goodbye for The King

AUGUSTA, Georgia—Augusta National wasn't the clear-cut winner everyone expected at the Masters, but it was enough of a brute to make Arnold "The King" Palmer call it quits after 48 years.

It was plenty tough for Tiger Woods, too.

On what might be the players' easiest day all week on the longer, more difficult course, Davis Love III shot a mistake-free 5-under 67 to take the lead Thursday (Friday in Manila) after one round.

Love, who hasn't finished higher than 16th all year, had his best opening-round ever in the tournament, although it wasn't the kind of scoring that typically accompanies such friendly conditions.

"The soft greens definitely helped," Love said.

It allowed players to go after some flags, although most of them still tiptoed around a course where nine of the holes have been lengthened, bunkers were stretched, tees were shifted to sharpen the doglegs and trees were planted to catch errant drives.

Sergio Garcia birdied three straight holes to tie Love for the lead, but missed a 3-foot (meter) par putt on the 18th hole for a 68 and was tied with Angel Cabrera of Argentina.

It was his best round at Augusta, and he gave himself even higher marks considering he was hitting a 7-iron into greens where he used to only hit wedge.

"You have to realize that the course was playing softer today," Garcia said. "The wind was blowing very little, and look at the scores. This is an unbelievable field, so it shows the course ... it's just playing tough."

Phil Mickelson didn't take long to stir up some excitement. He missed two putts from 3 feet (a meter), but also pitched in from 160 feet (48 meters) on the 11th hole for an unlikely birdie. He finished at 69, an excellent start in his quest to finally win a major. Even so, Mickelson declined to answer questions about his round.

Also at 69 was U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, who had seven birdies to offset a double-bogey when he hit into Rae's Creek on the par-3 12th.

Padraig Harrington of Ireland birdied six of the first 12 holes and had 184 yards (167 meters) for his second shot on the par-5 13th when he pulled his shot into a creek. He had three bogeys over his final six holes for a 69.

Woods, the defending champion, hit into the Georgia pines twice and into the gallery once but still scratched out a 2-under 70 and was only three strokes back.

The average score was 74.118, a stroke harder than the first round last year.

The new Augusta course shared the spotlight with the 72-year-old man who first brought golf to life with his swashbuckling style.

The King is saying goodbye.

"I just think it's time," Palmer said after an 89, matching his worst score in the Masters. "My golf has been pretty lousy of late, and it doesn't warrant being here playing."

Friday will be his 147th and final round in the Masters, and it figures to be more emotional than his farewell from the U.S. Open at Oakmont in 1994 and from the British Open at St. Andrews in 1995. *AP*

First Round Scores:		Mark Brooks	38-36-74
(a-amateur)		Kirk Triplett	38-36-74
Davis Love III	33-34-67	David Duval	39-35-74
Sergio Garcia	34-34-68	Lee Janzen	37-37-74
Angel Cabrera	34-34-68	Billy Mayfair	37-37-74
Retief Goosen	36-33-69	a-Chez Reavie	37-37-74
Padraig Harrington	31-38-69	Thomas Bjorn	39-35-74
Phil Mickelson	34-35-69	John Daly	34-40-74
Tiger Woods	34-36-70	Rocco Mediate	37-38-75
Jose Maria Olazabal	35-35-70	Scott McCarron	38-37-75
Miguel A. Jimenez	36-34-70	Colin Montgomerie	38-37-75
Ernie Els	37-33-70	a-Michael Hoey	40-35-75
Scott Verplank	33-37-70	Nick Faldo	38-37-75
Jesper Parnevik	37-33-70	Paul Lawrie	39-36-75
Chris DiMarco	37-33-70	Fuzzy Zoeller	37-38-75
Nick Price	35-35-70	Steve Lowery	37-38-75
Justin Leonard	36-34-70	Billy Andrade	38-37-75
Vijay Singh	35-35-70	Seve Ballesteros	37-38-75
Darren Clarke	35-35-70	Steve Stricker	38-37-75
Brad Faxon	36-35-71	Lee Westwood	35-40-75
Tom Watson	35-36-71	Paul Azinger	38-37-75
Adam Scott	38-33-71	Shigeki Maruyama	39-36-75
Greg Norman	36-35-71	Kenny Perry	38-38-76
Jerry Kelly	35-37-72	Shingo Katayama	40-36-76
Paul McGinley	38-34-72	Tom Lehman	38-38-76
Mike Weir	39-33-72	a-Tim Jackson	38-38-76
Jeff Sluman	36-37-73	Scott Hoch	36-40-76
Frank Lickliter	38-35-73	Niclas Fasth	39-37-76
Rory Sabbatini	37-36-73	a-Robert Hamilton	39-38-77
Matt Kuchar	37-36-73	Ian Woosnam	41-36-77
Toshi Izawa	40-33-73	Tom Kite	37-40-77
Robert Allenby	36-37-73	Stuart Appleby	37-40-77
Sandy Lyle	40-33-73	Kevin Sutherland	40-38-78
Fred Couples	40-33-73	a-Bubba Dickerson	37-41-78
Tom Pernice,Jr.	34-39-73	Mark O'Meara	40-38-78
Jim Furyk	36-37-73	Tommy Aaron	43-36-79
Larry Mize	36-37-73	Mark Calcavecchia	37-42-79
Craig Stadler	37-36-73	Raymond Floyd	38-41-79
David Toms	35-38-73	Gary Player	40-40-80
Bob Estes	40-33-73	Toru Taniguchi	40-40-80
Bernhard Langer	33-40-73	Craig Parks	42-39-81
Joe Durant	37-37-74	Ben Crenshaw	42-39-81
Stewart Cink	36-38-74	Charles Coody	40-42-82
Jose Coceres	40-34-74	Arnold Palmer	48-41-89
Michael Campbell	39-35-74	Hal Sutton	WD
Charles Howell III	36-38-74		

AP

God, why 2 aces for just one guy?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

THIS is for golfers: When did you score your first hole-in-one?

Only three among my regular golf mates from Maddogan Golf Club have done so—Ernie Gonzales, Lito Tacujan and Benny Gopez. A fourth one—the late Danny Floro of Crispa—had scored his years before he died in 1995.

Often, when the subject of conversation among golfers strayed into hole-in-one feats, the ace-makers' eyes would sparkle. Immediately, they'd be engulfed with a flood of memories—all told with feeling.

"Mine bounced once in front of the green before it disappeared into the hole," said Ernie, from Malilipot, Albay. "Oh, I know the feeling of one making a similar feat. Ecstasy."

A plaque hangs on a wall of Alabang Golf Club to immortalize Ernie's ace.

The aces of Lito and Boss Danny were scored at Valley. Lito won a set of Mizuno Grand Monarch. Boss Danny earned an applause that extended up to the clubhouse, where he treated all golfers that day at Valley to food and drinks.

Benny's ace takes the cake, though.

In 2000, playing what he described were his worst 17 holes ever, Benny skulled his last tee shot that day. The ball traveled up and down on rugged terrain before it found the 18th hole of Intramuros.

Benny jumped like crazy. My two other flight mates joined him in a rain-dance of sorts, totally forgetting that I was the last on the tee and had not yet teed off. In my anger, I parred the hole.

For his ace, Benny won P50,000 from Unilever through Chito Macapagal. Before receiving that amount, Benny, in a fit of joy, had doled out cash to caddies and umbrella girls and other strangers so generously that when he was through doing it, he had actually given more than the surprise prize he had received from Chito.

"Ernie was right all along," said Benny, referring to Ernie Gonzales. "Now I know the feeling of one making a hole-in-one. Indescribable joy."

Now, listen up, fellas.

On Holy Wednesday in Cagayan de Oro, a feat that should merit a spot in the Guinness Book of Records has been achieved.

Tom Garcia, my townmate, called last week to say that Virgilio "VJ" Cabanlet, a noted lawyer, scored a hole-in-one twice in a span of three holes at Camp Evangelista.

"He accomplished both in less than an hour," said Tom, who owns one of the country's most reputable security and manpower agencies. "I have yet to hear one achieving this rarest of feats."

They both happened on the back nine, the first one coming on the 150-yard third (Camp Evangelista is a 9-hole course with 18 tee boxes). The wind in his face, VJ used a 4-iron Ping ISK. The second ace was scored on the 165-yard fifth; he used a 5-iron with the wind in his back.

I keep on saying only God can make a hole-in-one. But Good God, why give one two when there are still millions out there who have been crying out in ages **to be given** just one? Just one, for Chrissakes?

Like me?

Ah, I can understand as I always will.

God, indeed, works in mysterious ways.

SPORTSWATCH

Laguna nips Cebu, enters semis

Today's Matches (Ateneo field)
1 p.m. – Negros Occidental vs Laguna
3 p.m. – NCR vs Davao

LAGUNA's lady booters nipped Cebu, 2-1, yesterday to make it to the semifinals of the 6th National Women's Football Championship at the Ateneo field. The Cebuanas surged ahead after 11 minutes on Agenita Van Den Berj's marker, but Jenny Rose Garcia leveled the count four minutes later. Louie Jane Megaling produced the winning goal in the 87th. Masbate blasted Zamboanga, 5-0, in a no-bearing contest. Rona Desuyo sparkled with four goals – in the 18th, 49th, 51st and 53rd minutes. Tiara Guadayo completed Zamboanga's production by striking in the 71st minute. Laguna joined back-to-back champion Davao Negros Occidental and NCR (National Capital Region) in the semifinals.

Bacolod's Labay, Lucena's Zoleta prevail

ALYSSA Labay of Bacolod and Bambi Zoleta won two titles each even as Nino Salvador of San Sebastian ruled the boys' 21-under division yesterday in the Junior Tennis Association of the Philippines (Juntaphil) Cup age-group tennis tournament at the Baguio Tennis Club. Labay defeated Catherine Flores of Legaspi City, 6-3, 6-1, for the 18-under title and later annexed the 16-under crown after beating the same opponent, 6-4, 6-2. The Lucena City-based Zoleta, on the other hand, clinched the 12-under title over Jessica Agra, 6-4, 7-5, and won the 4-under trophy when Julie Em Botor got sick before the match.

Valbuena wants Pangilinan guest

THE TABLE Tennis Association of the Philippines (Tatap) has invited PLDT top honcho Manny Pangilinan to grace the awarding ceremonies of the National Selection Tourney at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. "Mr. Pangilinan is one of the few businessmen-sportsmen who is always ready to lend a helping hand to sports. It's an honor for us to present him the new composition of our national table tennis team," said Tatap president Victor U. Valbuena. Some 226 players have signed up for the weeklong event April 15-21.

TMGFI, LPCCI stage Tibayan Cup April 16

THE TMG Foundation Inc. (TMGFI) and the Las Piñas Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc. (LPCCI) will stage the 2002 Tibayan Cup on April 16 at the Alabang Golf Club in Alabang, Muntinlupa. Leading the tee-off ceremonies are Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Sergio Ortiz Luis Jr., Jesus Tanchanco Sr., Jesus V. Tibayan, Ezekiel D. Martinez and Edwin Alzelius Jr. The event stakes a Daye motorcycle as a hole-in-one prize. Other prizes include a trip to Hong Kong for two days and three nights courtesy of TravelPros, a 7.0 cubic feet refrigerator, 14-inch Sharp colored TV, washing machine and fax machine.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

GOLF: Senior PGA—Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, Second Round at 1:30 p.m. on Star Sports
LPGA Kraft Nabisco Championship, Second Round at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN, Third Round at 8 a.m. on Star Sports and 5 p.m. (r - midnight) on ESPN
2002 Masters, Day Two Preview at 2:30 p.m. (r), Day Two at 3 p.m. (r), Day Two Highlights at 5:30 p.m., Day Three Preview tomorrow at 3 a.m., USA Day Three tomorrow at 3:30 a.m. on Star Sports

GOVERNORS CUP

Hotdogs target Top 4 slot vs Realtors

Teams	W	L		W	L
Talk N Text	8	1	Alaska	4	5
Purefoods	7	2	San Miguel	4	5
Coca-Cola	7	3	Hapee-RP	4	6
FedEx	6	4	Selecta-RP	3	7
Red Bull	5	4	Ginebra	2	7
Sta. Lucia	5	4	Shell	1	8

GAMES TODAY (Philsports)
4 p.m.—Purefoods vs Sta. Lucia
6 p.m.—Alaska vs Shell

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS shoots for a twice-to-beat edge going into the quarterfinals when it battles Sta. Lucia Realty today in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Although coming off from an ego-deflating 89-75 loss to Federal Express, the Hotdogs are poised to obtain their eighth victory in 10 games against the Realtors in the 4 p.m. confrontation.

Alaska fights for survival in the other game against Shell, the first team to bow out of contention in the quarterfinals.

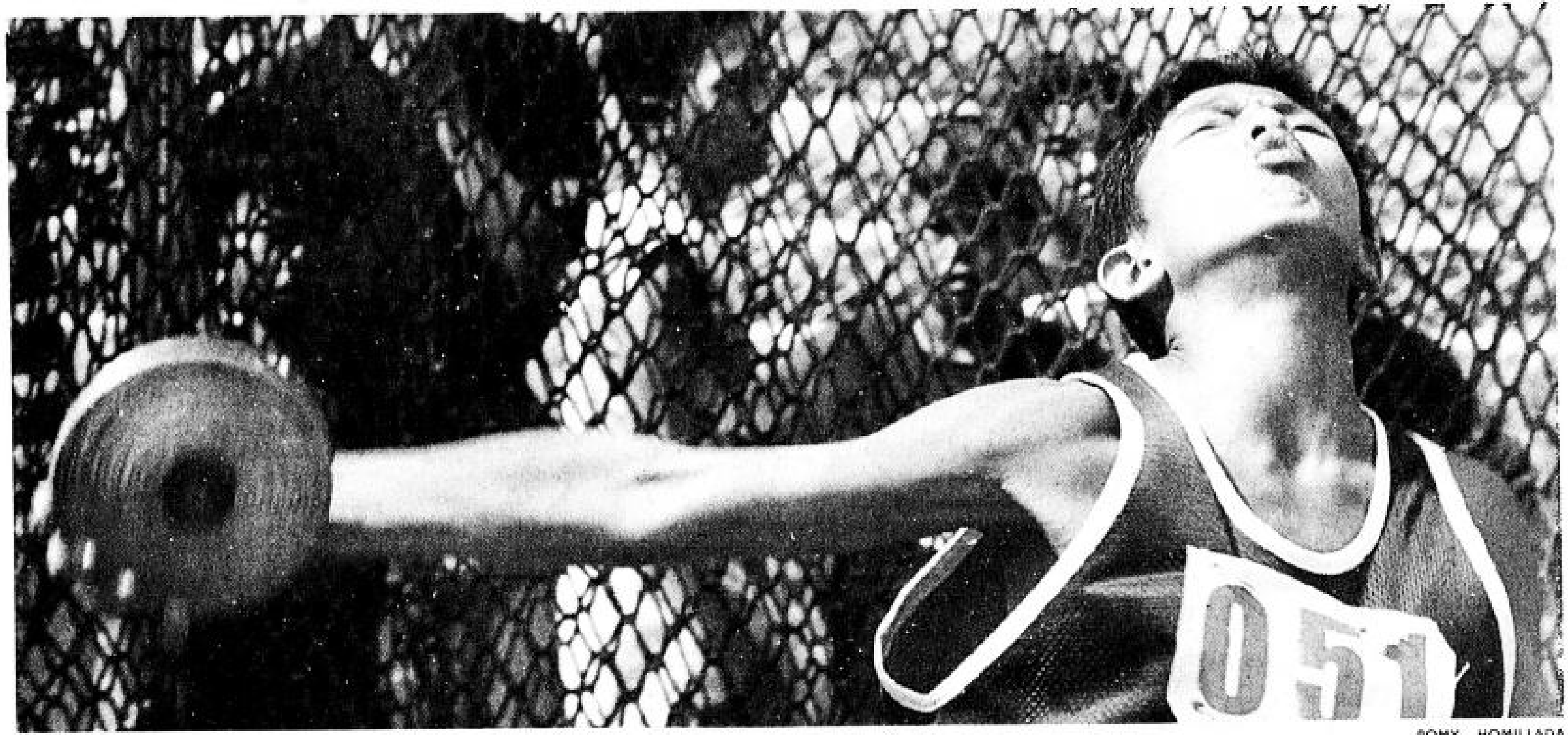
A win will automatically install interim coach Ryan Gregorio and his TJ Hotdogs anywhere in the top four when the round-of-eight begins less than two weeks from now. As bonus, the Hotdogs would earn the twice-to-beat privilege against any opponent in the next round.

Among the 12 teams in the league, Talk N Text owns the distinction of being the first squad to secure a twice-to-beat edge after the Phone Pals scored their eighth straight victory over Alaska, 84-67, last week.

For the Hotdogs to join the Phone Pals into the elite cast, they must get past the Realtors, who are in the thick of the fight for positioning in the middle of the standings.

The Realtors are tucked at fifth place with a 5-4 record along with Batang Red Bull, yet a defeat would bring them two notches down and endanger their title-retention bid.

A happy thought for the Realtors, however, is the fact that they were unstoppable in their last three games, beating Coca-Cola, Alaska and San Miguel Beer in succession.



ROMY HOMILLADA

GOLD WINNER
Randolph Hernandez, 12, of Plaridel Elementary School, won the gold medal in the boys discus throw yesterday during the Manila Youth Games at the Rizal oval.

Osaka Pangasinan, RCPI bounce back

MBA FIRST CONFERENCE

Standings	W	L
Cebuana Lhuillier	2	0
Olongapo	2	0
RCPI Negros	2	1
Osaka Pangasinan	1	1
Professional Davao	1	2
Pampanga	0	1
LBC Batangas	0	1
Cagayan de Oro	0	2

GAMES TODAY (St. La Salle Bacolod)
3 p.m.—Olongapo vs Davao
6 p.m.—Batangas vs Negros

By Roy Luarca

BOUNCING back is easy for RCPI Negros and Osaka Pangasinan when their star players are in form.

Beaten in their last games, the Negros Slashers and the Pangasinan Waves bested separate opponents Thursday night to get back on track in the Metropolitan Basketball Association First Conference.

The Waves, starring Romel Adducul and Chris Clay, downed the Cagayan de Oro Amigos, 107-97, at the San Fabian Gym in Pangasinan, while the Slashers, spearheaded by John Ferriols, clobbered the Professional Davao Eagles, 95-80, at the St. La Salle Gym in Bacolod City.

Adducul, showing the form that made him the 2000 MVP, pumped in 27 points and grabbed 15 rebounds while Clay added 17 points, four rebounds and four assists as the Waves withstood the Amigos' determined challenge to post their first victory in two starts.

The Waves bowed to the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems, 109-99, in overtime in their first outing, but showed better form in handing the Amigos their second straight defeat.

Former San Juan Knight Kalani Ferreria ably handled the backcourt chores for Osaka, winding up with 17 points, 10 assists and 2 steals.

Ateneo solo leader

GAMES MONDAY (Pasig Sports Complex)
4 p.m.—Ana vs Kutitap
6 p.m.—Shark vs John-O-Juzz

By Dennis U. Eroa

RESURGENT Ateneo-Hapee-Negros Navigation proved steadier down the stretch as it downed Blu Detergent Kings, 58-48, seizing the solo leadership last night in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Fighting for the ball furiously, the Blue Eagles did not budge an inch against their more experienced rivals to extend their winning streak to three games, their best start since joining the league last year.

Later, Montaña Jewels survived a barrage of three-pointers from ITCSI-La Salle in the final two minutes and hacked out a 76-72 victory for its first win in three games.

James Yap buried three and Mike Cortez added one triple as the Green Archers threatened at 72-74, but Mark Macapagal came to Montaña's rescue with two gift shots which pegged the final score, six ticks left.

ICTSI dropped to 2-1, same record of newcomer John O-Juzz which spanked RP Youth in the first game, 85-71.

"My players are willing to get hurt just to win," said Ateneo mentor Joel Banal. "They followed my instructions very well."

Enrico Villanueva again had a monster game as he topscored with 21 points on top of nine rebounds and three blocked shots. Legaspi finished with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

SCORES:

ATENEO-HAPEE 58—Villanueva 21, Cruz 11, Alvarez 9, Membrere 5, Anicete 4, Gonzales 2, Domingo 2, Bugia 2, Fonacier 2, Benitez 0.

BLU 48—Legaspi 12, Codamon 9, Santos 6, Calo 5, Gatumbato 4, Gottenbos 4, Prior 2, Mendez 2, Manalac 0, Roldan 0, Machica 0.

Quarters: 18-14, 27-22, 43-36, 58-48

TRANSHOW ATTRACTION
The Toyota Altis, dressed-up by Toyota Otis, Toyota Balintawak and Bandila Trading, is now a scene-stealer in the ongoing Transhow 2002 "Auto Design Evolution" at the Megatrade Halls of SM Mega Mall. Among the car's key features are a Necvox TFT LCD and an S7 Lenso Alloy used in the movie "The Fast and the Furious," a two-tone leather interior, front skirts and a gate-type shift knobs. For more information, call 564-1811-20 loc. 137 or 366-8901 loc. 205.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Raymund Sangil shot an even-par 71 to power Veterans to a 27-stroke victory in the Magnolia-Jungolf Cup at the Manila Golf Club. Also today in 1993, Polytechnic University of the Philippines beat Fuji-YKL, 1-0, to capture the Philippine Football Open at the Rizal Memorial Football Stadium.

Igusquiza stops Lithuanian

KUANAS, Lithuania—Lightweight Anthony Igusquiza stopped Danas Peciukonis of Lithuania as Team Caltex Philippines assured itself of at least four bronze medals Thursday heading into the semifinals of the sixth Algirdas Socikas International Boxing Championships here.

Igusquiza, from Malinao Aklan, completely dominated the fight with his solid straights that found their mark on the face of the Lithuanian to win via Referee-Stopped Contest (RSC-Retired) at the end of the second period.

The win, which saw the 25-year-old Army man take an unbridgeable 10-point lead in the second round before the bout was stopped by the Lithuanian corner, made up for the loss of featherweight Roel Laguna and bantamweight Vincent Palicte in the quarterfinals.

Laguna lost to fleet-footed Russian Alexei Titchchenko, 12-20 in the Filipinos' first quarterfinal bout in the three-day tournament among 16 national teams.

Palicte, still nursing a swollen wrist, was ahead by three points after the first round and was up by four in the next when his left wrist, injured after the Helsinki tournament three days earlier, began to hurt.

Igusquiza advances to Friday's semifinals where lightflyweight Harry Tanamor, flyweight Violito Payla and lightwelterwieght Romeo Brin drew a bye.

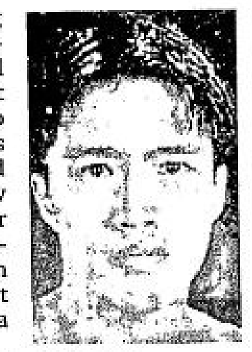
NCA derby slated April 15-17

A BIGGER, better and more exciting NCA 7-Cock Derby will be held on April 15-17 at the Araneta Coliseum, with the country's top cocker-breeders taking part in the event under the aegis of the National Cockers Association.

Hosted by the Boyet Joson Group, Frank Berin and Rep. Rudy Albano, the derby has lured Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, James Chiongbian, former Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, two-time Cocker of the Year Jun Santiago, Pampanga's well-known Jun and Rudy Jingco, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza, recent World Slasher champion Dicky Lim, Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame, Pampanga's Madlambayan brothers, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Boy Lechon and RQP, Gerry Fevidal, Louie Cua, former Mayors Jessie Viceo and Vic Amante, Iking Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, respected breeder Boy Jiao, Ryoichi Saito, Ruel Ricafort, Manny Co, Tos Reyes, Alan Tan, John Capinpin, Frank Berin and Rudy Albano. Also playing stellar roles are Patrick Puno, Boyet Joson, Dennis Roldan, Ruel Feliciano and Sons, Boy Velez, Johnny Jalandoni, Ed Ledesma, Boy Nilo Lizares, Ramon Guanzon, Felix Trebol, Mayor Vic Amante, Blandie Tolentino, Pol Estrellado, Boy Primallion, Kano Daniel, Arthur Uy and Jong-Jong Morales of Mindanao.

UNITY FORGED
Airfreight 2100-FedEx Philippines chairman Bert Lina (center) clasps hands with Paquito Rivas, president of the Professional Cycling Association of the Philippines, and Ponciano Regalado Jr., head of the Philippine Amateur Cycling Association (PACA), as a symbol of unity among the country's cycling leaders. Looking on are former Tour organizer Cornelio Padilla Jr. and PACA secretary general Armando Bautista. Airfreight 2100-FedEx Phils. is bringing the fabled Tour back on the road next year but will launch its return with a four-day race next month. Unity among the country's cycling leaders was a prerequisite to Lina's support of the Tour.

Rubillar stakes plum May 18



RUBILLAR

WORLD Boxing Council (WBC) International lightflyweight Champion Juanito Rubillar defends his crown for the third time against fellow Filipino and former World Boxing Association minimumweight champion Joma Gamboa.

Rubillar, 25, and a Mati-native has 39 fights with 26 wins—8 by KO, 8 losses and 5 draws. He moved three pounds heavier and got a shot at the WBC lightflyweight title against Jin Ho Kim of Korea where Rubillar won via unanimous decision on May 27, 2000. Rubillar then defended the title almost a year after against Thai Fahsang Pow Pongsawang in Kidapawan City, where he kayoed the Thai in the 6th round.

On July 28, Rubillar was challenged by Japanese Takahiko Mizuno and won by knockout in the 4th round.

Rubillar is a two-time world contender. First was last Dec. 3, 1999 for the IBF Minimum weight crown against Zolani Petelo and second last Oct. 20 for the WBC Interim Lightflyweight Championship against Mexican Jorge Arce. Though both world title fights were unsuccessful, Rubillar went the distance. If he beats Gamboa on May 18, Rubillar may yet be given another title crack. The fight card is presented by Gabriel "Bebot" S. Elorde Jr.

Filipino boxer serious after KO

BANGKOK, Thailand— Filipino boxer Sonny Boco was suffering from a severe brain injury Friday after being knocked out during a bout with a Thai fighter, officials said.

Boco collapsed in the fifth round of a 12-round bout against Pan Asia Boxing Association minimum weight champion Pornsawan Kratindaeng-gyme Thursday.

The 22-year-old boxer was rushed from the fight venue in the Cambodian border town of Poipet to a frontier hospital in Thailand.

He was then transferred to Phrapokkhao hospital, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) east of Bangkok, an official at the frontier hospital said.

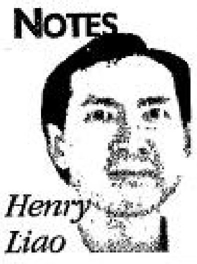
An official at Phrapokkhao, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Boco was being treated in the intensive care unit for a severe brain injury.

"He is still in serious condition and is unable to make much response to a doctor's orders," the official said in a telephone interview.

In Thailand's most recent boxing tragedy, local fighter Chatchai Phaisithong, 28, died one day after a bout with a Russian boxer in the seaside resort of Pattaya in February.

Exact rankings

NBA NOTES



Henry Liao

WITH the regular season to conclude on April 18 (Manila time), of the 16 participants in this year's NBA playoffs—including the entire eight-team cast from the Western Conference—are already known. Only the exact rankings of some of the teams in both conference have yet to be determined.

Under the NBA's playoff format, the top eight teams in each conference qualify. The division winner with the best record in each conference is seeded No. 1. The other division winner is seeded No. 2 even if its record is inferior to that of the second-placer of the opposite division in the same conference.

The remaining six teams are seeded Nos. 3-8 according to their winning percentages.

In the East, first-time Atlantic Division champion New Jersey (50-28) and Central Division titlist Detroit (47-31) are guaranteed of either the first or second seeding in the conference. The Nets, 50-game winners for the first time in their NBA existence, needed only a victory at Orlando yesterday or a Pistons home loss to San Antonio today (Manila time) to clinch the best record and the No. 1 seed in the east and the homecourt advantage throughout the conference segment of the playoffs.

Boston(46-33), which will be making its first postseason appearance since 1995, has the inside track to the No. 3 berth over Orlando (43-34). The Celtics also own the tie-breaker edge with a 3-1 win against the Magic. Granting Boston slips to No. 4, it is already assured of homecourt advantage in the first-round playoffs.

Philadelphia, the reigning East champion, and Charlotte, whose Hornets seek to relocate to New Orleans next campaign, currently are tied for the fifth and sixth slots. The 76ers own the tie-breaker edge, having beaten the Hornets 3-1, including twice at Charlotte, in their head-to-head matchup.

Milwaukee and Toronto are deadlocked for the No. 7 and 8 spots at 39-39 but the Bucks have the tie-breaker edge with a 3-0 lead over the Raptors in their four-game season series. (The two teams play in Milwaukee on April 17, Manila time.)

Ninth-place Indiana (38-40) needs to have a better win-loss mark than Milwaukee or Toronto if the club is to snatch the eighth and final playoff berth in the east. The Bucks and Raptors both own a 3-0 advantage over the Pacers in their four-game season series.

In the Western Conference, the Sacramento Kings (59-19), the NBA's hottest team with a 10-game winning streak, gun for win No. 60 (a franchise best) when they play the host LA Clippers today (Manila time) that will formally hand them the Pacific Division crown, the best record in the West and the homecourt advantage throughout the playoffs.

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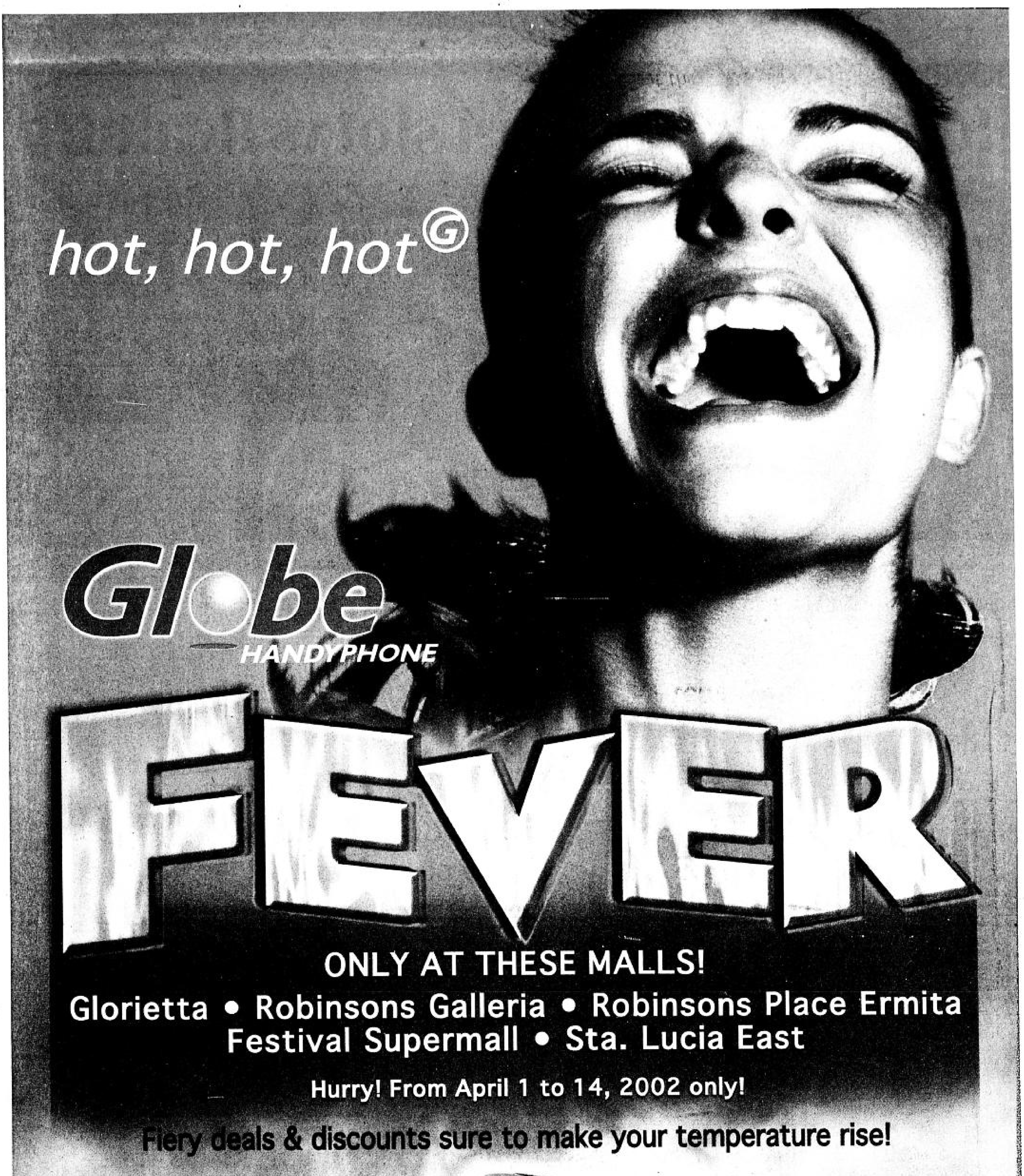

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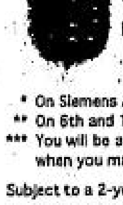

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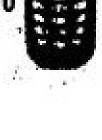

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METRO
Editor Louie C. Camino

On Target: The spoiled military /A20
Bus color-coding back on Edsa /A20
Gunshots precede fire; 2 burned /A23
Wanted: Nayon investors /A23

2 kidnapping victims rescued

Abductors kept them in house with 'rats and cockroaches'

JOAN BONDOC

HANDCUFFED to each other, the kidnapping suspects are presented to media in Camp Crame.

By TJ Burgonio

THEY were threatened they would be killed if ransom were not paid. They were kept in a house in Caloocan City that was infested with rats and cockroaches, and fed food from a popular fastfood chain.

Otherwise, businessman Albert Yam, 44, and Pinky Gonzales, 26, who were rescued by police yesterday after six days of captivity, had no other complaints against their abductors.

"We were not treated badly," Yam said. "We were not hurt."

He said the hardest part of their captivity was staying in a house crawling with rats and cockroaches.

While Yam seemed to have emerged from the kidnapping unscathed, Gonzales appeared traumatized by the experience.

2 KIDNAPPING/ A20

RENE Requiestas' final resting place. BETOY JOHNSON

Graveyard of the stars

By Leah Salterio

WHEN singer Diomedes Maturan is brought to his final resting place today at the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, he will be joining other stars who are also buried in the cemetery that is becoming an attraction for its celebrity graves.

GRAVEYARD/ A22

Nora Aunor seeks Chavit help in selling house Erap gave

By Leah Salterio

NORA Aunor has asked the help of former Ilocos Sur Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson in selling her P30-million house in Balete Drive, Quezon City, which former President Joseph Estrada had given her.

Aunor requested Singson to locate Lilia "Baby" Pineda, wife of suspected jueteng lord Bong Pineda, to whom she pawned her house for P3.5 million in 1998.

"There were reports that I was selling my house to Chavit," Aunor said. "The truth is, I asked his help to talk to Bong Pineda so I can get back from Baby the title to the house and lot."

Aunor said she pawned her house to Pineda after Estrada did not fulfill his promise to finance her solo concert at the Araneta Coliseum in December 1998.

"He (Estrada) said he would shoulder the P3-million production cost of the concert, but when I approached him, he turned me down," Aunor explained.

"The date of the concert had been announced and I didn't want to disappoint the fans, so I was forced to pawn the house."

Since 1998, Aunor said, the P3.5 million she got from Pineda has increased to P8.7 million because of interests.

She said she wants to sell the 600-square-meter house because it's now too big for her family. She has a smaller house

NORA AUNOR/ A20

WAZZZZUP?
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The spoiled military

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE CONSTITUTION should be amended to fit the normal times. The new Constitution, which some call the Cory Constitution, was drafted mostly by people with vengeance in their hearts.

They were not elected, they were appointed by President Cory Aquino. Naturally, most of them crafted the Constitution according to the wishes of the appointing authority.

Now that the situation has stabilized, there is need to draft a constitution by delegates who are not in the group of euphoria or hatred and are not beholden to a leader who appointed them. The delegates to the constitutional convention, should it be convened, must be elected by the people, not appointed.

* * *

Deputy Speaker for the Visays Raul Gonzalez hit the nail on the head when he said that Article II of the Constitution should be stricken off.

The provision defines the role of the military as the "protector of the people." The provision has spoiled the military establishment in such a way that it thinks it is another branch of government.

The Constitution has made us a virtual banana republic.

* * *

While proposing to change the form of government from presidential to parliamentary and from a strong central government to federal—why don't they also think of returning the police to the control of the local government?

Mayors should have control over the local police. The city or town chief of police should be appointed by the mayor in much the same way the Philippine National Police chief is appointed by the president of the republic.

Wealthy towns or cities that can afford to maintain their own police forces should be given exclusive power over the police. Poorer communities can band together to maintain their own police forces or fire department.

* * *

However, there is still a need for a national police like the defunct Philippine Constabulary. The national police will take over the job of the local police when it cannot handle runaway crime in a community.

The national police can go after big-time crime syndicates and big criminals.

The PC did a fine job as a national police organization. It was abolished under the Cory Administration to appease Ms Aquino whose husband was arrested by PC troopers when Marcos declared martial law.

* * *

People who hated the PC or who had an ax to grind against the organization said that it was a corrupt law enforcement agency.

And what do you think of its replacement, the Philippine National Police?

The truth is the PC was only as corrupt as the other military and law enforcement units at the time. The Army, Navy and Air Force were no better.

* * *

On the accusation that Marcos used the PC to harass his political enemies: yes he did. But the dictator also used the Army, Navy and Air Force because it was martial law.

So, if delegates to the proposed constitutional convention want the national police separate from local police forces, they should revive the old PC setup.

The PC was a military organization on an equal footing with the Army, Air Force and Navy. In fact, it was organized ahead of the Philippine Army.

* * *

Before the creation of the Philippine Army, there was only the Philippine Constabulary.

True, the old PC was created to go after remnants of the forces of General Emilio Aguinaldo. But it also kept the peace in the entire country during the transition from the Spanish rule to the Commonwealth era.

It produced fine military officers. The predecessor of the Philippine Military Academy was the Philippine Constabulary Academy.

If only for its historical past, the PC should be revived.

* * *

Going back to the Constitution's Article II: It has spoiled the military establishment in such a way some military top brass think that they're equal to the president of the republic.

Just look at the attitude of army, chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos, who retired recently.

De los Santos said there would be a coup if President Macapagal-Arroyo would appoint Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu as Armed Forces chief of staff.

* * *

De los Santos said before he retired Cimatu would be an unpopular choice as chief of staff.

The nerve of this De los Santos to dictate on the Armed Forces commander in chief who to appoint as chief of staff!

Delos Santos was himself very unpopular among the officers corps and rank and file, but was there a coup when he was appointed Army chief by the President?

* * *

Delos Santos and his cohorts who are still in the service should realize that general is a political rank.

Up to the rank of lieutenant colonel, officers are appointed to positions based on merit, meaning their experience in handling men and situations.

But when an officer reaches the rank and full control, he becomes a political bureaucrat, subject to the whims of the civilian authority. That's why officers from the rank of colonel up are subject to the confirmation by the Commission on Appointments who are politicians.

* * *

Whoever the President, being the commander in chief, appoints to positions requiring a general's rank is his or her prerogative. Nobody can question her.

If she appoints an incompetent general to become the AFP chief of staff that's her problem, not De los Santos'. And from what I've heard, Roy Cimatu is not.

Bus color-coding back on Edsa

By Alcuin Papa

THE METROPOLITAN Development Authority yesterday announced it would re-impose a modified version of the color-coding scheme on public utility buses to decongest vehicular traffic on Edsa and other major roads in the metropolis.

The modified version of the Unified Vehicular Volume Reduction Program, which was agreed upon in a meeting the other day between MMDA chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. and bus company owners, will go on a one-week test run beginning Monday.

On April 22, Abalos said the ban will be in full effect and violators will be apprehended.

In the modified traffic scheme, the bus operators will keep their vehicles out of Edsa and other major roads during non-peak hours of 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to reduce the volume of vehicles on the streets.

Present during the meeting were officials of the Integrated Metro Manila Bus Operators Association led by Claire dela Fuente, the Intercity Bus Operators Association (Interboa) headed by Amelia de Dios, the Metro Manila Bus Operators Association, the Southern Luzon Bus Operators Association, and the Provincial Bus Operators Association of the Philippines.

Earlier, the bus operators protested the MMDA's decision to re-impose the color-coding scheme, fearing they would incur financial losses.

The Integrated Metro Manila Bus Operators Association (Immboa) also threatened to raise their fares to P12, from the present P4, to offset the loss of income.

The bus operators also protested the continued exemption of provincial buses, which are not included in the ban.

But Abalos complained to the operators that their bus drivers lack the necessary road discipline and blatantly disregard traffic rules. This, he said, tends to aggravate the worsening traffic situation in the metropolis.

The MMDA is set to release the guidelines on the partial implementation of the scheme before Monday.

With the ban, the MMDA estimates there will be 600 buses less on the highways. There are a total of 3,000 buses plying Edsa on any given day.

The UVVRP, more popularly known as the "color-coding" scheme," prohibits private vehicles on major thoroughfares one day a week, depending on the last digit of the vehicles' license plates.

Vehicles with license plates ending in 1 and 2 are banned on Mondays; 3 and 4 on Tuesdays; 5 and 6 on Wednesdays; 7 and 8 on Thursdays and 9 and 0 on Fridays.

Violators are slapped with a P300 fine.

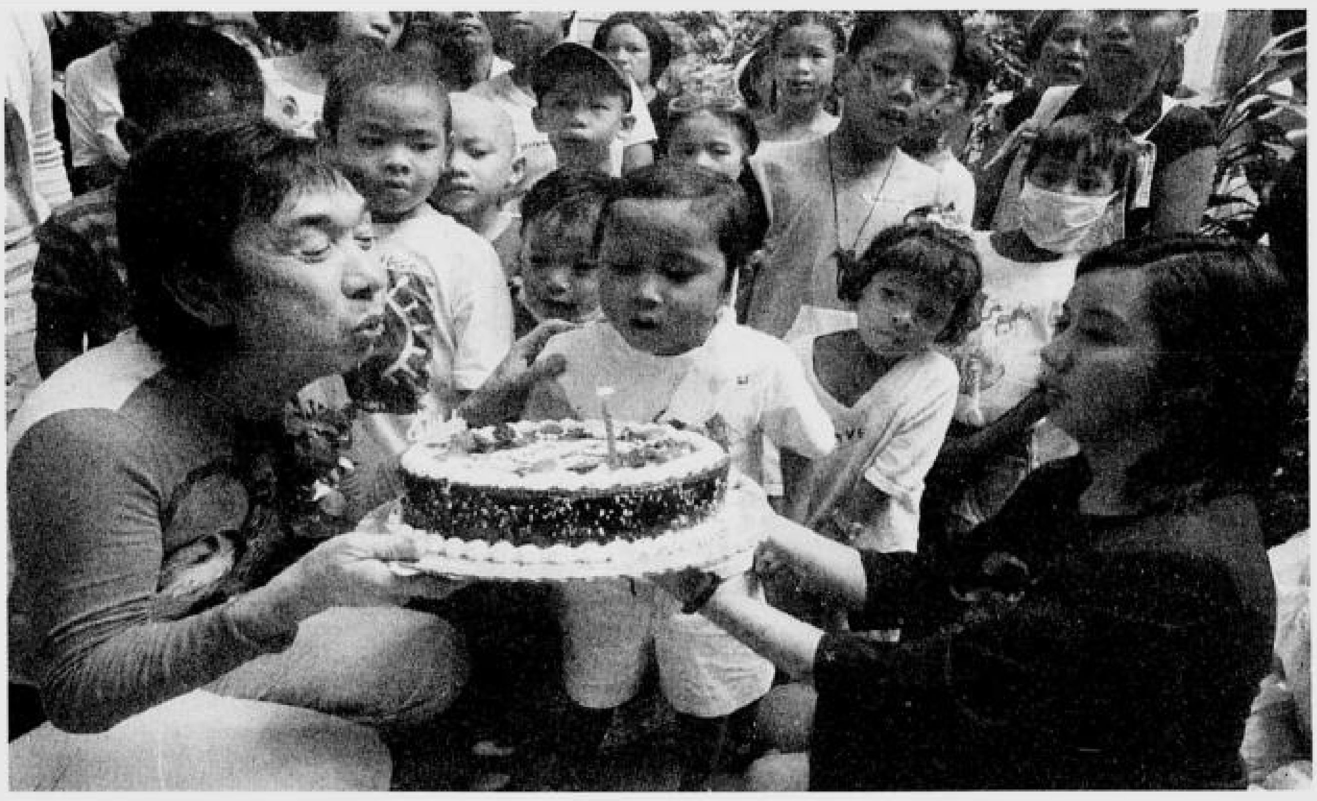
Office management program

THE ATV Speakers Network is presenting two training programs for the improvement of the office.

The first one will be held on April 16, on "Administration and Management of the Office." Topics include concepts and philosophy of office management, responsibilities of the office manager, and organization and function of the office.

The second one will be held on April 17, on "Records and Information Management." It will provide participants with techniques in overcoming information overload and in streamlining filing systems.

Both sessions will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. For inquiries, please call 896-8790 or 899-8441.



CANCER CHILDREN

BEAUTY expert Ricky Reyes, joined by presidential daughter Luli Macapagal-Arroyo, celebrates his birthday with the young wards of the Philippine General Hospital Cancer Institute. Reyes also donated cash and medicines to the institute. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

2 kidnapping victims ...

From page A19

"They did not hurt us," she said, her voice cracking with emotion. "They did not rape me. But they threatened to kill and rape me."

Police rescued Yam and Gonzales after a brief shootout with their kidnappers about 6 a.m. yesterday.

The shootout left one of the alleged kidnappers dead. Police identified him as Nelson Ocampo alias Joselito Estigoy.

Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group and the National Capital Region Police Office arrested the leader of the kidnap group identified as Roberto Gonzales and seven other suspects during the shootout and a follow-up operation.

Seven other suspects were arrested during a follow-up operation, police said.

The suspects were identified as Roger Pesado, Ricky Pena, Jose Abelentor, Marcelo Baylon, Lowen Almonte, Jubert Banatao and Morey Dagaan.

Beth Salvador, the owner of the house where Yam and Gonzales were held captive, was also invited for questioning.

Yam, the manager of the Cainta Cockpit Coliseum in Cainta, Rizal, was abducted by eight armed men as he was driving out of the cockpit arena on Imelda Avenue in Cainta about 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The armed group also took Gonzales, who was driving a car behind the vehicle of Yam.

Yam claimed he and Gonzales did not know each other.

"I was the target," Yam said. "She was a witness that's why she was brought along."

Police said the kidnappers had threatened to kill Yam and Gonzales if Yam's family did not pay the $1-million ransom. But police arrived shortly and rescued them.

"We saw the opportunity, so we struck," Director Nestorio Gualberto, CIDG chief, said in a press briefing at the police headquarters in Camp Crame. "It was the result of good intelligence work."

Police said the kidnappers belonged to the Ilonggo-Ilocano group, which was also behind the abduction of Susan Nodado in Novaliches, Quezon City on Feb. 12 this year. The group was also behind the robberies of RCBC and UCPB banks in Quezon City in 2000, Gualberto said.

Nodado, owner of the Nodado's Hospital in Novaliches, was freed seven days after she was kidnapped. Her family paid a P2-million ransom to the kidnappers.

NBI has phone number of 'Ipfa spokesman'

By Philip C. Tubeza

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said his men already have the cellular phone number of the spokesperson of the group that planted the unarmed bombs around the Metro Manila last month.

Wycoco also announced that the authorities are trying to confirm if the people who conducted the bloody Rizal Day bombings in 2000 were the same ones behind the recent bomb scares.

A man who identified himself as "Fedrev" called up radio stations in Metro Manila and claimed responsibility for the planted bombs on behalf of the group Indigenous People Federal Army (Ipfa).

Fedrev, which allegedly stood for "federal revolutionary," announced during the radio interviews that he and his group are after the creation of a federal form of government in the country.

"We've traced the number of this Fedrev and we've contacted the phone company to find out who owns the phone; it's prepaid," Wycoco said. "Hopefully, with the help of Globe, we can identify who this person is."

Wycoco said the NBI, which is coordinating the investigation with the Philippine National Police and the Intelligence Service of the Armed Froces of the Philippines, has received intelligence reports that the perpetrators of the Rizal day bombings are the ones behind the recent bomb scares.

"The persons behind the December 2000 bombings were former members of the (Moro Islamic Liberation Front)," Wycoco said. "The reports said the perpetrators of the bomb scares are also former MILF members. We are confirming if they are the same people."

Once the reports are confirmed, he said it will not take the authorities too long to catch the culprits because law enforcement agencies already have records of the former MILF members implicated in the Rizal Day bombings.

Wycoco denied that the investigators received reports that those who recently planted the "fake" bombs around the country are now set to plant bombs that will really explode.

An intelligence officer earlier told the INQUIRER that the planting of the "fake bombs" was just a "trial run" for another bombing blitz similar to the Rizal Day bombings.

Nora Aunor seeks Chavit help ...

From page A19

on Pentagon Street, near Broadcast City, in Capitol Hills, Quezon City. The P5-million house was a form of payment she received from film producer Derek Dee, when she did the movie "Inay" with Dee's ex-wife, Melanie Marquez.

Aunor said she shuttles between her Balete Drive house and the one in Capitol Hills.

"But I still stay most of the time in Balete," she said.

In Balete Drive, she lives with her younger brother Eddie Boy Villamayor and her sons Kiko and Kenneth. The house has four huge rooms and was formerly owned by William Uy, said to be a crony of Estrada.

Estrada gifted Aunor with the house before she campaigned for him nationwide during the 1998 presidential election.

Aunor used to be a staunch Erap ally and was one of the biggest crowd drawers during Estrada's presidential campaign.

But during Edsa II in January 2001, Aunor shocked Filipinos when she joined the crowd at the Edsa Shrine and added her voice to the call for Estrada's resignation. She also accused him of battering women and of beating her at least once when they were still having an affair.

Aunor and Estrada had a relationship after they made the movie "Erap is My Guy." They did another movie together, "Bakya Mo Neneng."

During the juetengate scandal and the impeachment trial for Estrada, Singson identified Bong Pineda as among the biggest gambling lords in the country.

Aunor's house at 81 Balete Drive is near the controversial "Boracay" mansion, said to be owned by former movie actress Laarni Enriquez, one of Estrada's mistresses.

Aunor ran for governor in Camarines Sur in the May 14 elections last year, but she lost to Luis Villafuerte.

But she said that did not stop the actress from helping people. Starting this month, she will host a public service program, "Nora Mismo," on IBC 13. Her co-host is Naga City broadcast journalist Junie Abejuela.

"This was offered to me even before I decided to run for governor last year," Aunor said. "I've been wanting to do something like this.

"At least even if I'm not into politics, I can help the people," she added. "I want to be the bridge between the government and the less privileged."

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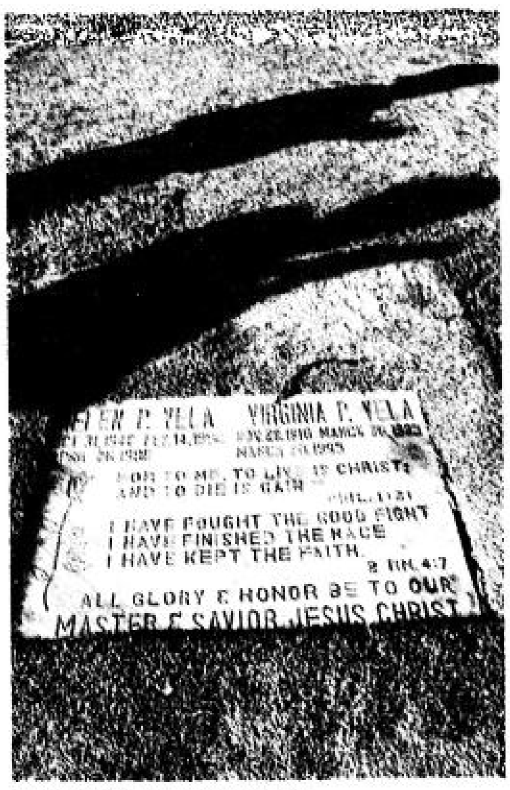
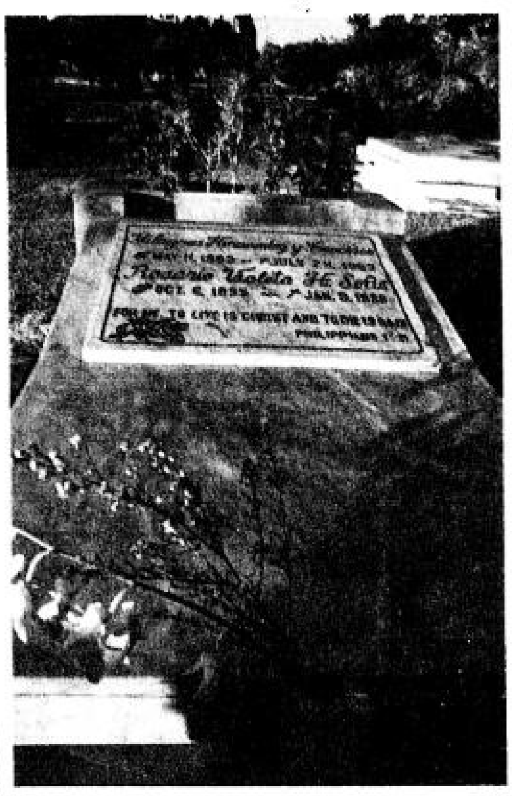
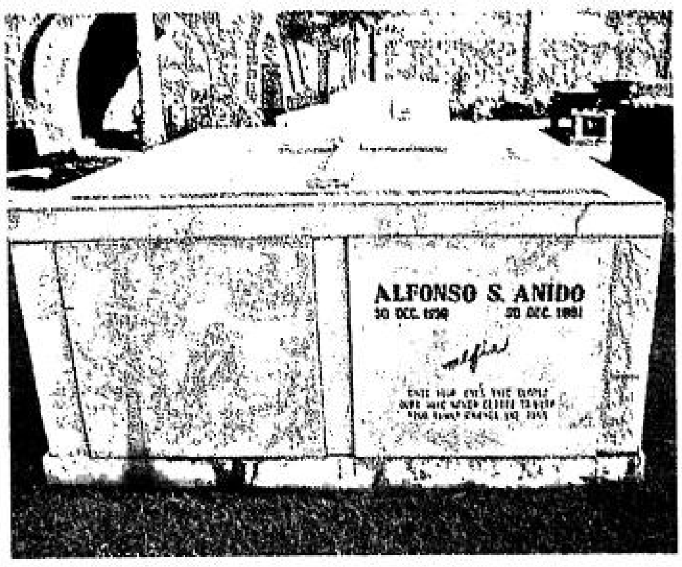
RICO Yan in the family mausoleum.


HELEN P. VELA
VIRGINIA P. VELA
FOR TO ME, TO LIVE IS CHRIST; AND TO DIE IS GAIN
I HAVE FOUGHT THE GOOD FIGHT
I HAVE FINISHED THE RACE
I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH.
2 TIM. 4:7
ALL GLORY & HONOR BE TO OUR MASTER & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
HELEN Vela and her mother.

NINOY Aquino Jr.


CHARITO Solis



ALFIE Anido

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

Graveyard of the stars

From page A19

The memorial park is similar to the Arlington Cemetery in Virginia, which has become a popular tourist attraction for the gravesites of many American leaders, including President John F. Kennedy, whose tomb is watched by an eternal flame and uniformed guards.

Curious visitors have been visiting the Manila Memorial Park to check out the tombs of the celebrities.

On most Sundays, families not only bring flowers to the graves of their loved ones, they also go to the gravesites of the stars.

The caretakers and staff at the memorial park willingly serve as "tour" guides. They accompany the visitors to the celebrity graves and even share anecdotes on the funerals they have witnessed.

In 1983, the slain former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr. was buried there, in a white mausoleum with chandeliers and tiled floors. His funeral remains the biggest crowd-drawer in the memorial park, followed by the burials of singer Eddie Peregrina in 1977, Pasay City Mayor Pablo Cuneta in 2000 and actor Rico Yan earlier this month.

Last April 4, the Manila Memorial Park was seen on nationwide television when ABS-CBN aired a live, minute-by-minute coverage of Yan's funeral.

Food and books

But even days after the actor's interment, fans, friends and the merely curious still visit the Yan mausoleum, where he is buried beside his paternal grandmother Amelia Yan.

Some of them bring flowers and light candles before the mausoleum. Others even leave cards with fond messages for the 27-year-old star who died on Good Friday.

Yan's fans spend hours around the mausoleum on Sunday. Some bring books, magazines or newspapers to read while seating on plastic chairs. Others even bring food and bottled water, hoping to get a glimpse of show biz stars who might visit.

"We hope Claudine shows up here soon," said one fan. "After all, she didn't get near Rico's casket when he was buried."

A woman with her two teenage children also visited the gravesite on a recent Sunday.

"My children insisted that we come here," the mother said. "If you ask me, I don't want to endure the heat just to come here, but they were very persistent so I accompanied them."

A woman *balikbayan* from Canada had her picture taken with a relative in front of the Yan mausoleum.

"When I go back to Canada, I will show my Filipino friends that I visited Rico Yan's grave," the woman said.

Two guards keep watch at the Yan mausoleum in two shifts, day and night. One guard said people come to the Yan gravesite as early as 6 a.m. He said the visitors include people "in expensive cars."

The memorial park gates are closed at 7 p.m.

Charito, Eddie and Helen

In the area called the Court of Immortal are two celebrity niches, those of actress Charito Solis and singer Eddie Peregrina.

The veteran actress, whose real name is Rosario Violeta Hernandez Solis, died in 1998. She shares a niche with her mother, Milagros Francisco.

Peregrina has a marble tomb topped by a cross. "Rico Yan was only two years old when Eddie died," the woman caretaker pointed out.

Yan was born in 1975. Peregrina died in a car accident in 1977.

The scenic Lakeside Lawns has its share of visitors because of the celebrity gravesites there. Actress-TV host Helen Vela, who died in 1992, shares a tomb with her mother, Virginia Vela.

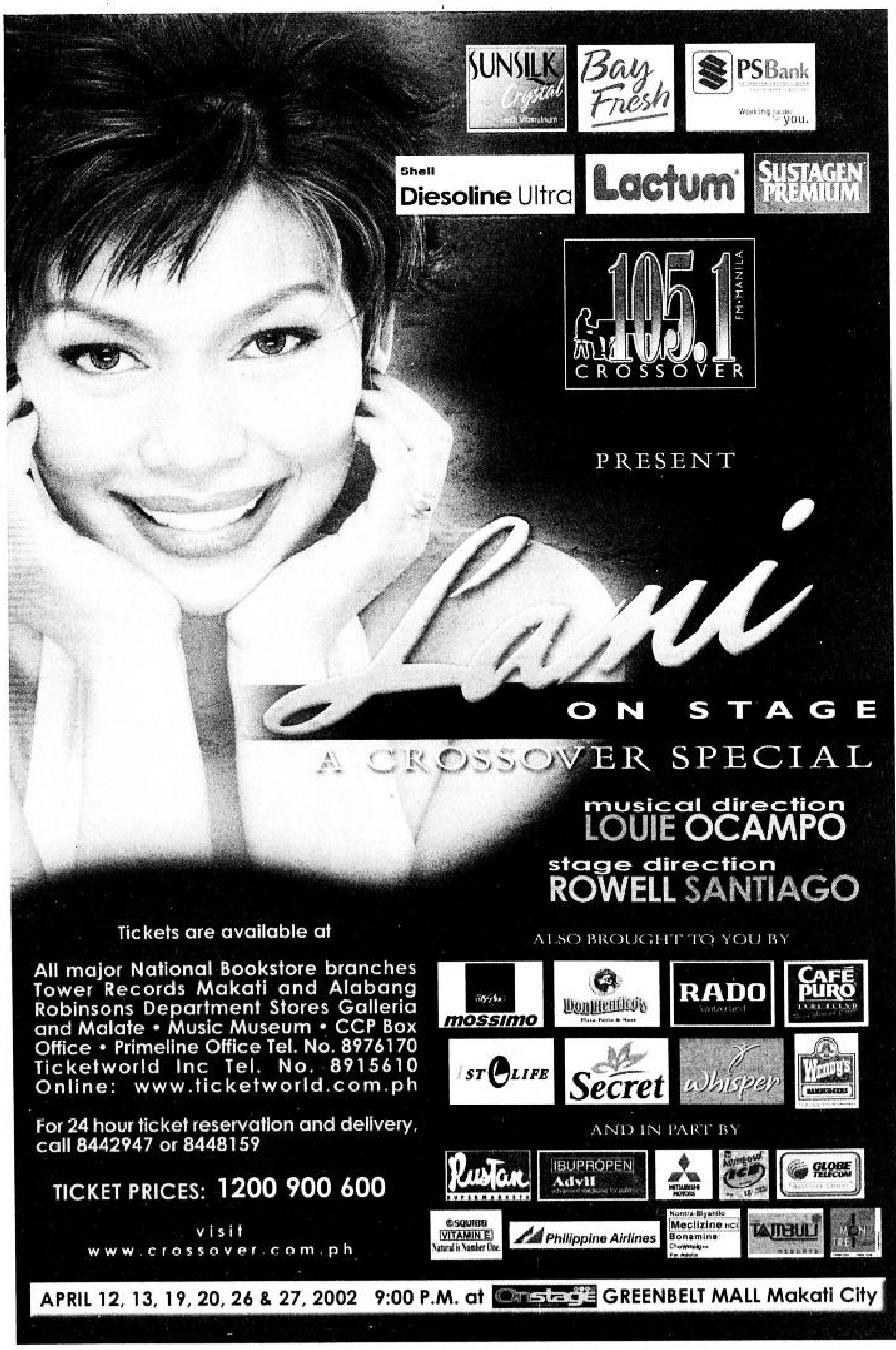
On Helen's tombstone are the verses from Philippians 1:21—"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain" and 2 Timothy 4:7—"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

Pops' father

A few steps from the Vela grave lies the tomb of comedian Rene Requiestas, who died in 1993. He shares a garden plot with family members Ramon and Irene Requiestas.

GRAVEYARD /A24

EDDIE Peregrina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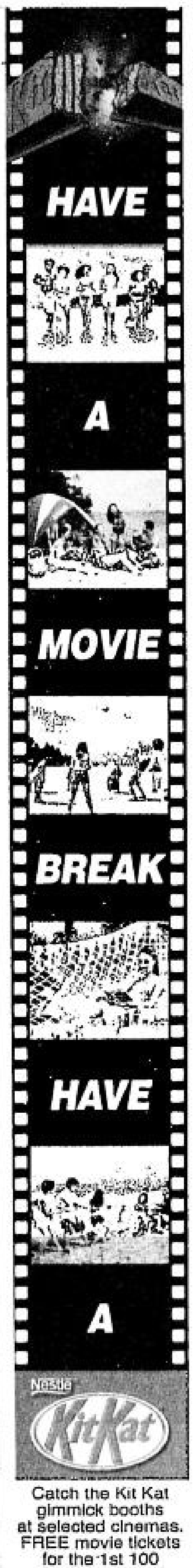
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Follow the rules, dads told

By Jerome Aning

LENGTHY discussions on several items not on the agenda of a council session prompted a Manila councilor to appeal to his colleagues to follow parliamentary rules in conducting their sessions.

Councilor Patrick Ocampo cited the city council's session last Tuesday where some councilors proposed and discussed on the floor a resolution honoring the late actor Rico Yan and balladeer Diomedes Maturan. But the resolution was not on the agenda, Ocampo said.

What was on the agenda was a resolution honoring the late National Artists Levi Celerio and Lucio San Pedro, which the council passed.

"Although I'm not opposed to honoring them (Yan and Maturan), the resolutions were not on the council's agenda for the day," Ocampo told his colleagues during the Thursday session.

The council's rules and parliamentary decorum dictate that the body's deliberations be limited on the items listed in the prepared agenda for the day.

The lengthy discussion on items not on the agenda left the council with no time to discuss the agenda items, Ocampo said. The discussions on these items, which include administrative cases involving barangay officials that the council has to make a ruling on, were rescheduled.

Ocampo received a curt "Noted," from Councilor Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion, who was the council's acting presiding officer.

The councilors recently agreed to hear at least two barangay cases each session.

Ocampo is chair of the committee on justice and human rights, which is in charge of hearing complaints and making recommendations to the entire council.

He said the committee is currently handling 156 barangay cases that need to be resolved soon so that the affected barangays could resume their normal operations.

Wanted: Nayon investors

By Christian V. Esguerra

NAYONG Pilipino authorities are rushing to find investors to prevent the theme park from permanently closing due to the new airport Terminal 3 project.

Nayong Pilipino executive director Charito Planas yesterday said Nayon officials are talking to different financiers to ensure that the park will be redeveloped and open for business by next year.

The theme park will have to raise P450 million after the Manila International Airport Authority offered only P50 million for 8.6 hectares of Nayon property, Planas told the INQUIRER.

Nayon officials previously demanded P500 million for use of the property, which the Miaa hoped to turn into an internal access road and parallel taxiway for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

Planas said the compensation package will pay for the redevelopment of the theme park.

In a meeting with Tourism Secretary Dick Gordon Thursday, airport general manager Edgar Manda asked Planas if the Miaa could take over the property for P50 million.

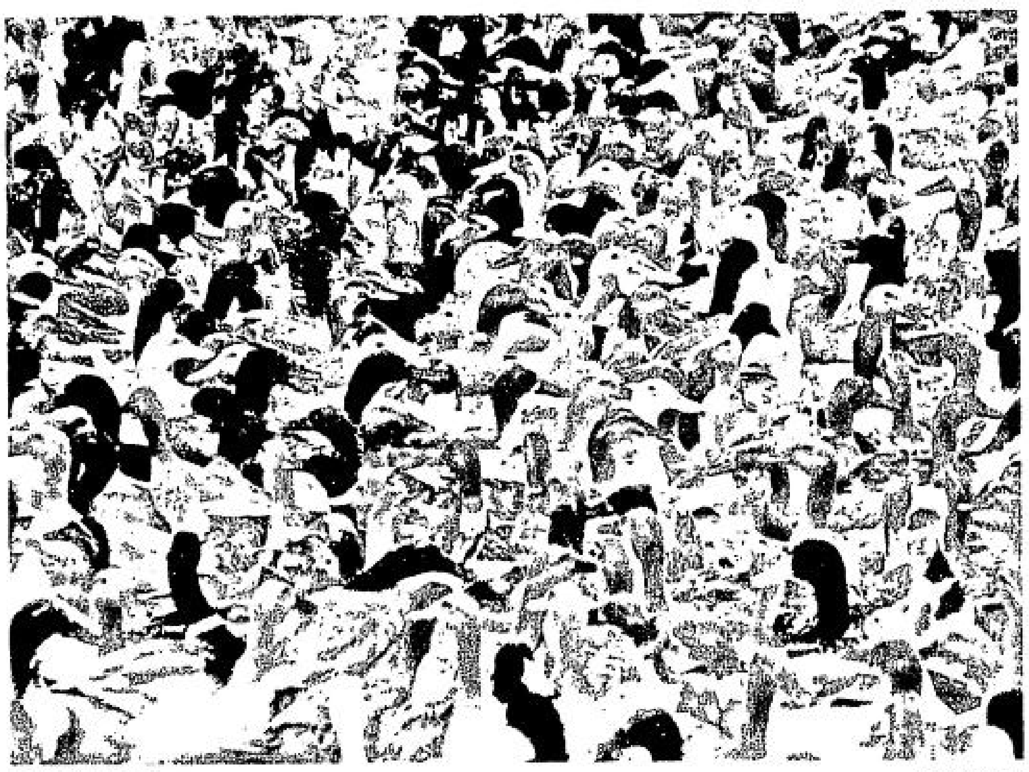
Manda yesterday said it was more important for the Miaa to spend P450 million for the access roads of the new airport terminal.

He said the balance of the P500-million package will be settled by 2004.

Planas said she agreed with Manda's proposal after she learned that the Miaa will have to shell out around US$500,000 daily if the new terminal fails to open in December this year.

"We can't do anything," she said. "I think it would work well for both Nayon and Miaa."

The Miaa has already drafted a memorandum of agreement that will allow airport authorities to take over the 8.6-hectare Nayon property.



JOAN BONDOC

FOWL PLAY

The scene is not in Pateros, known as the "*balut* capital" for the duck eggs that its people sell to many parts of the country. This is in Pulilan, Bulacan where households make a backyard business out of ducks, which they sell for about P100 each.

Torres High School Class '52 reunion

CLASS '52 of Torres High School will hold its golden jubilee alumni reunion and homecoming on Sunday, April 21, a the Manila Midtown Hotel.

Former Press Secretary Rodolfo T. Reyes, Class '52 president, said various achievement awards will be presented during the affair.

Members of Class '52 of Torres High School are requested to contact either Val Abeng at 819-2656 or 892-6037, or Mely Lapastora at 837-6873.

Gunshots precede fire; 2 burned

By Christian V. Esguerra

A MAN and a woman were burned to death when fire razed a two-story house which investigators said happened during a pot session in Pasay City early yesterday morning.

Jun Gruemberg, 40, a known drug user in the neighborhood, and his relative, Charito Madrid, 70, were burned beyond recognition, said FO3 Renato Recto.

SFO2 Felix Lazarte Jr. suffered a superficial wound in the right hand.

Authorities are looking into the possibility that Gruemberg was killed and then his house on Dominga Street was set on fire at 3:12 a.m. yesterday, Recto said.

The fire investigator said three men were seen leaving the house in a white Honda Civic, hours before the fire.

Neighbors told police they heard what might be gunshots before they saw thick smoke coming from Gruemberg's room. The fire, which started in Gruemberg's room, reached the fifth alarm within 20 minutes, and was put out at 4:36 a.m.

Gruemberg's body was found in his bedroom while Madrid was found in her small room beside the house.

Authorities also found a .45 pistol, two jungle bolos, an oxygen pump for airguns, and an aluminum foil believed used in the alleged pot session, Recto said.

The bodies of Gruemberg and Madrid were brought to Veronica Funeral for autopsy.

Beautician shot dead

A 36-YEAR-OLD gay beautician was shot dead in the head in Sampaloc, Manila before dawn yesterday, police said.

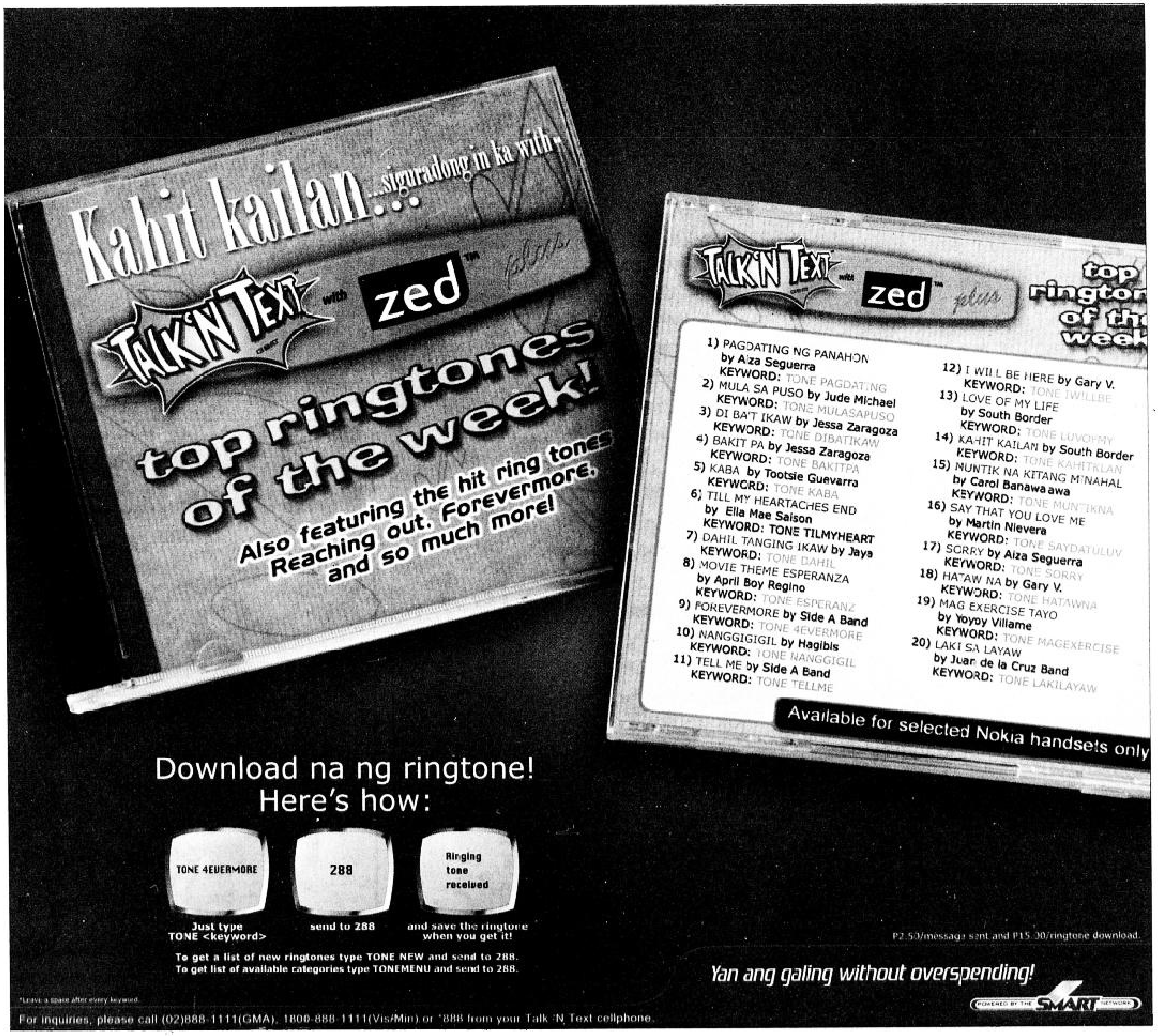
Police were still trying to determine what led three men in a car to kill Pascasio S. Zulueta Jr., 36, of G. Tuazon Street, Sampaloc, according to detective Raul Olavario of the Western Police District homicide section.

Zulueta was shot in the right eye and the bullet went out near his left ear, Olavario added.

He said that Zulueta was talking to the three men before they shot him dead about 4:15 a.m. at the corner of Cebu and G. Tuazon streets.

Witness Fe Norico, 61, and a barangay official, told investigators she saw the men drive away on board their unidentified red car. And then she heard a shot and saw Zulueta fall, the woman said.

Philip C. Tubeza



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15) MUNTIK NA KITANG MINAHAL by Carol Banawa awa KEYWORD: TONE MUNTIKNA
16) SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME by Martin Nievera KEYWORD: TONE SAYDATULUV
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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, April 13, 2002

2nd Week of Easter

1st Reading: **Acts 6:1-7**

Gospel: **Jn 6:16-21**

When evening came, the disciples went down to the shore. After a while they got into a boat to make for Capernaum on the other side of the sea, for it was now dark and Jesus had not yet come to them. But the sea was getting rough because a strong wind was blowing.

They had rowed about three or four miles, when they saw Jesus walking on the sea, and he was drawing near to the boat. They were frightened, but he said to them, "It is Me; don't be afraid."

They wanted to take him into the boat, but immediately the boat was at the shore to which they were going.

Commentary

Jesus. Not a message, not a teaching, not a code of conduct, but a person. "Do not be afraid, it is I." Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. This is how he was experienced by the first Christians. This is how he walks with us today. Suddenly, without being invited, he takes the initiative, he draws near to us in the crises of our lives. This is a powerful gospel passage for sharing with others who want to find and be found by God in their daily lives. Many have found themselves carried by Christ across a deep and stormy sea. Celebrate the Easter season by meeting with friends to pray and share around this gospel. Did he come to you when life was dark and stormy?

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	HART'S WAR
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	SHOW TIME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	BLOW DRY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	E.T.
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	HARI NG SELDA
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	BLADE 2
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	SHOWTIME
ODEON-2	HARI NG SELDA
ROBEN	ITLOG
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	HARRY POTTER / PHOSSED
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ITLOG
REMAR	HARI NG SELDA
REMAR-2	ITLOG
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	S2PID LUV
B	ITLOG
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-2	E.T.
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	HARI NG SELDA
CINEMA-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
CINEMA-3	ITLOG
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BLADE 2
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	ICE AGE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	CROSS ROADS
CINEMA-8	TIME MACHINE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HARTS WAR
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SHOW TIME
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-12	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-14	E.T.
CINEMA-15	S2PID LUV
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	E.T.
CINEMA-2	SHOWTIME
CINEMA-3	HART'S WAR
CINEMA-4	COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO
CINEMA-5	MIMIC 2
CINEMA-6	ICE AGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Humane accommodations' sought for crime suspects

By Jerome Aning

IF A Manila councilor has his way, crime suspects arrested by police should not be transferred to the city jail unless they are assured of "humane accomodations."

Councilor Julio Logarta Jr. said he recently visited the Manila City Jail and found out the "inhuman conditions" which the inmates were being subjected to and forced to endure.

"The detainees are packed like sardines and don't even have elbow room," he said. "Youth offenders and those with lesser offenses are mixed with hardened crooks."

In a proposed ordinance, Logarta wants the MCJ warden to issue first a "clearance for humane accomodations" before police detainees are transferred to the jail.

The warden will have the prerogative of not admitting the detainees if he could not guarantee them humane conditions in the facility.

Logarta defined humane accomodations as the presence of adquate and clean food and water supply, a well-ventilated cell, supply of clean beddings and a plate-and-bowl set and open space for sunlight exposure, exercise and interaction with co-detainees.

Inmates should also have a private room for conference with lawyers, space for conjugal visit, and medical services and sufficient supply of medicine.

The councilor said the inmates are "suffering inhuman treatment that results in the curtailment of their rights as human beings."

He added that he finds it "hard to imagine" how the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology could efficiently manage the facility.

The MCJ, located south of the Central Market, can ideally accommodate only 800 people.

But as of January, it has about 3,600 detainees, 80 percent of whom are Manila residents.

He said the jail has "failed to serve its purpose as a rehabilitation facility as the congestion, filth and quagmire that is so widespread breeds despair, disease and violent behavior."

Graveyard of the stars

From page A22

A loyal caretaker cleans the tomb of action star Eddie Fernandez, father of Pops Fernandez, at the Garden of Eternal Memories. The actor died in a street shootout on Oct. 30, 1993.

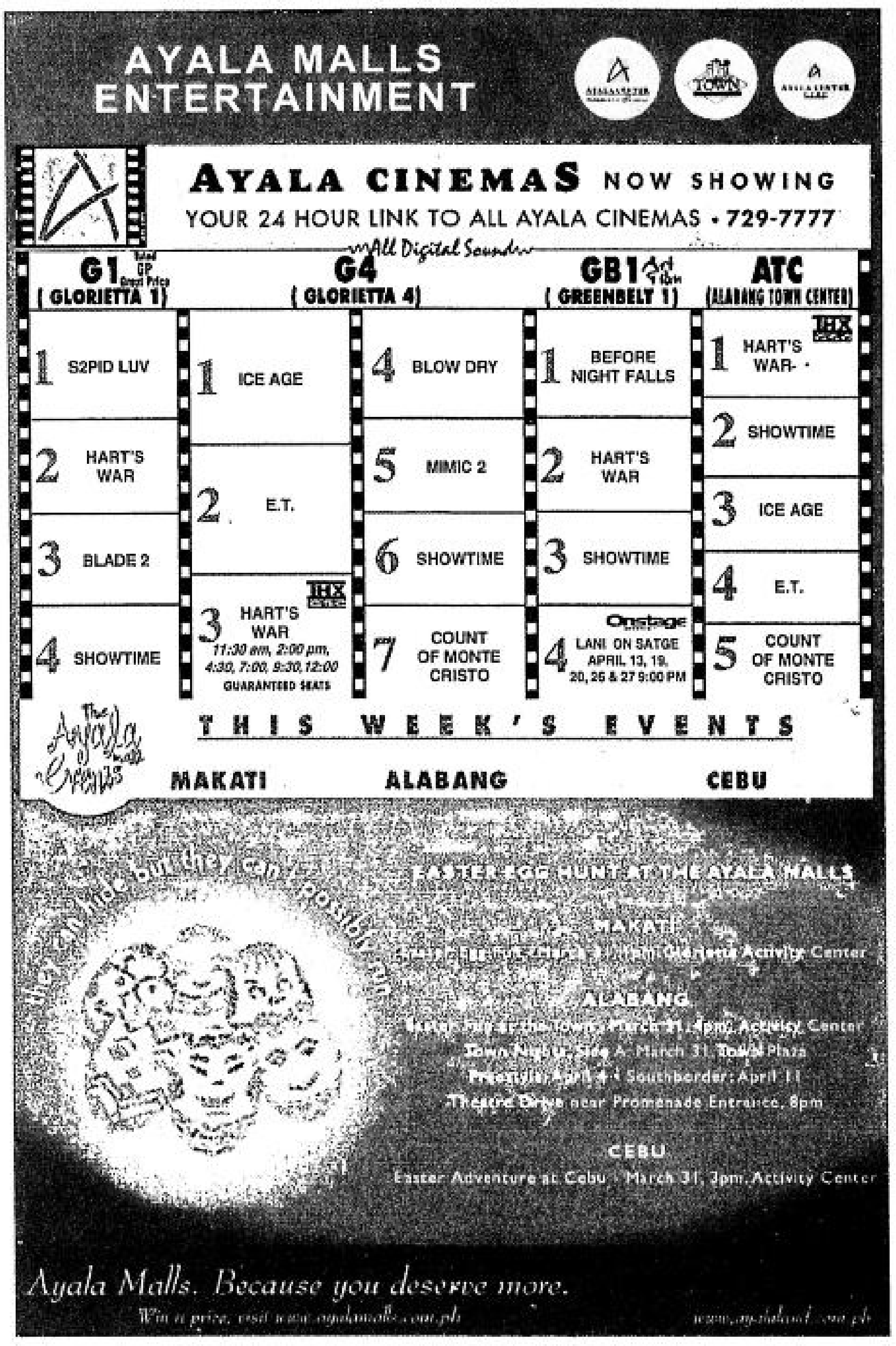
"I saw Pops here once on the death anniversary of her father," said the old man who added that he and the late Fernandez shared the same birthday, April 9.

"Pops' mother (Dulce Lukban) and brother (Joey) often visit here," the caretaker said. "They once inquired about a bigger niche because they wanted Eddie transferred, but they never bought the lot."

Across the street from Fernandez's grave is the black marble tomb of Alma Moreno's mother, Virginia Lacsamana, who died last February.

"Since your eyes have closed, ours have never ceased to weep." These words are written on the niche of matinee idol Alfonso "Alfie" Anido, who died on his birthday, Dec. 30, 1981. He was only 22.

Anido's white tomb has a white cross on top and is at the Garden of Eternal Grace at the far end of the memorial park.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2 HART'S WAR	2 E.T.	5 MIMIC 2	2 HART'S WAR	2 SHOWTIME
3 BLADE 2	3 HART'S WAR 11:30 am, 2:00 pm, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	6 SHOWTIME	3 SHOWTIME	3 ICE AGE
4 SHOWTIME		7 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO	4 Onstage LANI ON SATGE APRIL 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 9:00 PM	4 E.T.
				5 COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO

The Ayala Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

EASTER EGG HUNT AT THE AYALA MALLS
MAKATI
Glorietta Activity Center
ALABANG
Activity Center
Town Plaza
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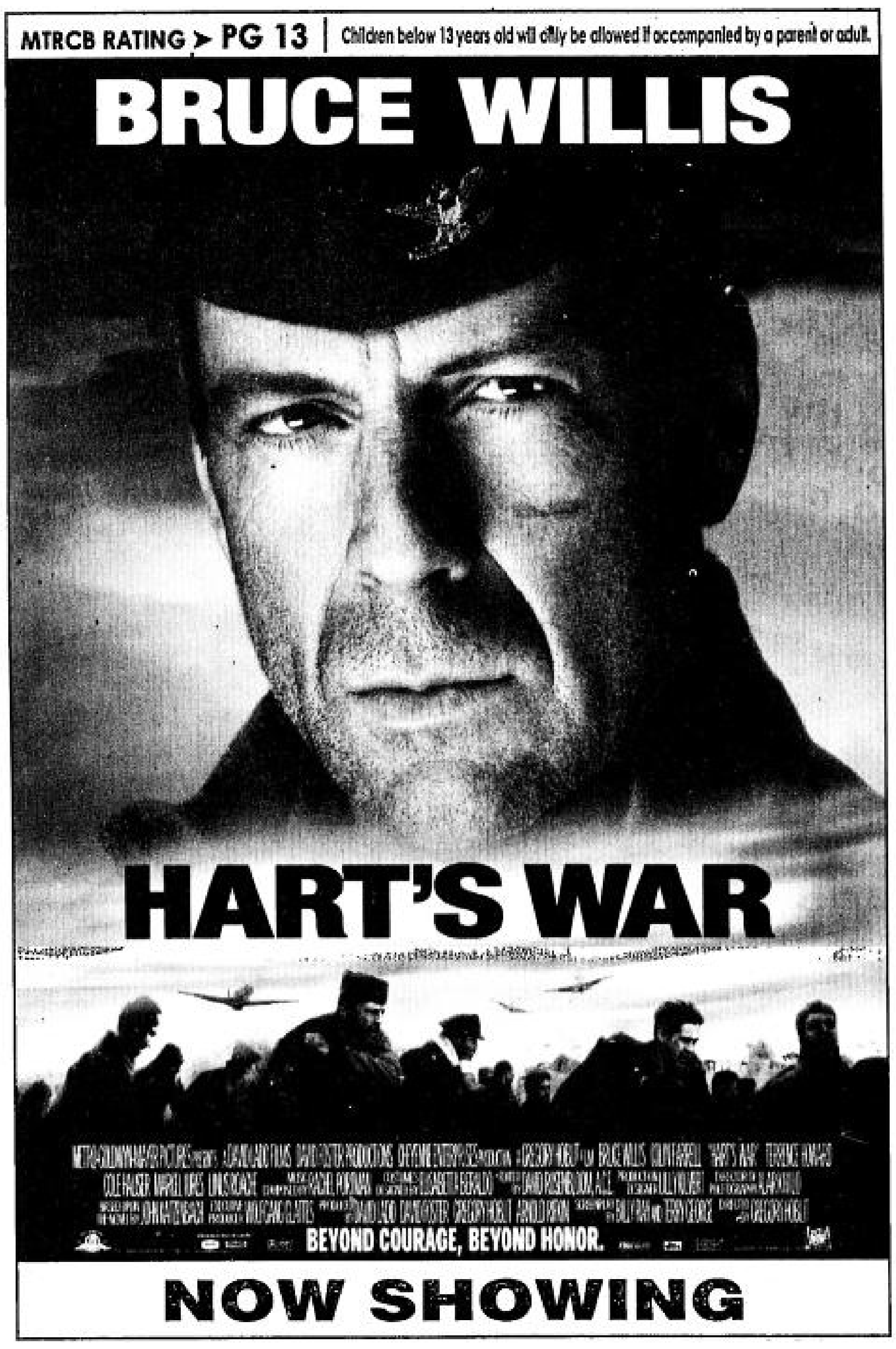
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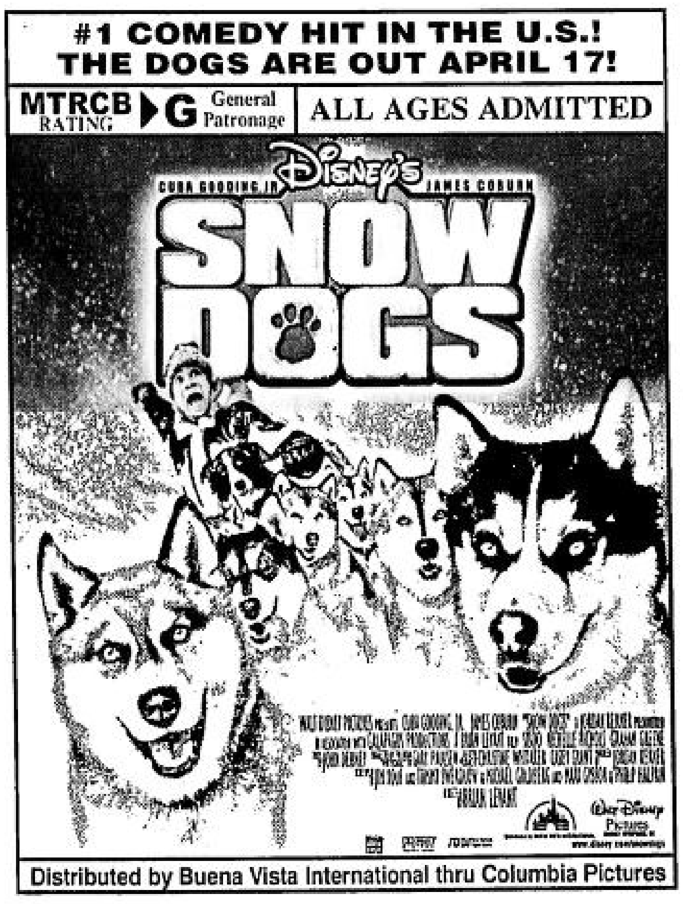
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NGO wants Napolcom officials to quit

By Alcuin Papa

A NON-GOVERNMENT organization is calling for the resignation of the officials of the National Police Commission (Napolcom) for their failure to weed out policemen allegedly involved in illegal gambling.

The Maralitang Kontra sa Sugal, through its chair Aris Anonat, said the Napolcom, which supervises and controls the Philippine National Police, should show it is serious in trying to earn respect for the police hierarchy.

"If the Napolcom officials cannot fulfill its mandated duty, the commissioners should resign now," Anonat said.

He said the members of the PNP act as if no government administrative body could discipline them. He said the community-based People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB) is ineffective in exercising its administrative power to hear complaints against policemen.

"There are no records in the Napolcom that would show they have dismissed or suspended a single police official who is involved in illegal gambling," Anonat said.

The commission has never decided on a single case against any policeman for gross neglect of duty or grave misconduct in relation to illegal gambling, he said. No police officer has been dismissed or suspended from the service due to illegal gambling, Anonat said.

The Napolcom attributes this to difficulty of establishing evidence to pin down police officers and unreliable information given by media.

The Napolcom has almost P2.7 million in intelligence funds intended for information gathering of its agents in the commission's Investigation, Monitoring and Inspection Service (IMIS).

Napolcom regional directors are required to submit monthly reports to the central office in Makati City on jueteng operations. The commission relies on these reports in investigating and pressing administrative charges against police officials before the commission.

The Napolcom en banc, upon the recommendation of the executive committee, decides whether a police officer should be removed from the service and stripped of all benefits.

Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina is chair of the commission. Vice chair and executive director is Rogelio Pureza. Jose Percival Adiong, Edgar Dula Torres, all retired police generals, and Linda Malenab-Hornilla, a former public prosecutor, are members.

Councilor proposes body vs sexual harassment

A MANILA councilor has asked the city government to create a special administrative body to investigate sexual harassment cases involving city officials and employees.

Fifth district Councilor Richard Ibay said the committee would receive and investigate all complaints of sexual harassment and impose the corresponding administrative sanctions on those it would find guilty.

Ibay recalled that the anti-sexual harassment law or Republic Act No. 7877, which was passed seven years ago, empowered every employer or agency head in the public and private sectors to promulgate rules and regulations on investigating sexual harassment complaints and imposing administrative sanctions.

He lamented that many city government workers still do not know what sexual harassment is or when acts of their superiors could be considered sexual harassment.

"Sexual harassment violates the dignity of workers and their right to a humane, just and safe work environment," Ibay said.

"It defeats and impairs morale and efficiency in the workplace and violates the merit and fitness principles in the civil service," he added.

The Supreme Court recently upheld the conviction of a Cagayan de Oro City health official who sexually harassed an applicant eight years ago.

According to an ordinance that Ibay proposed, a committee would review and study results of the investigation of sexual harassment cases and issue a decision within a prescribed number of days.

The body would also be tasked to provide assistance to a victim of sexual harassment. This includes counseling, referral to an agency offering professional help, and advice on options available before filing a formal complaint.

Representatives of the city government's personnel division, the city council, social welfare office, legal department, vice mayor's office and two non-government organizations will be members of the committee.

Jerome Aning

Barangays must have public toilets—dad

A PUBLIC toilet in every barangay in Manila.

This is what Councilor Luciano "Lou" Veloso wants for every barangay in Manila. He has asked the city government to require the barangays to have their own public toilet.

If a barangay fails to construct its own communal toilet, the 6th district councilor wants it to be fined from between P2,000 to P5,000.

Veloso said many homes in barangays that have slums and urban poor pockets do not have proper toilet facilities.

He noted that each barangay strive to have its own multipurpose hall, mortuary, covered court or deep well. A well-maintained public toilet should be added to the list, he said.

This would help reduce cases of waterborne diseases that are common in the city's blighted communities, Veloso said. In these areas, fecal and other excretory wastes are simply thrown on sidewalks and vacant lots, or into sewers or nearby waterways.

"Spending on health care assistance for every barangay constituent through the provision of a communal toilet is not only morally correct, but is also ultimately considered as an investment in labor maintenance," Veloso said.

Under his proposed ordinance, barangay councils will be required to fund the construction of at least one public toilet in their areas.

The toilets would be maintained and cleaned at all times by overseers appointed by barangay officials.

The barangay has the option to charge a minimal fee for every user to cover the cost of maintenance, electricity and water.

He said the city government, through the barangay bureau, must see to it that the toilets will be constructed within six months after the ordinance is passed into law.

The bureau would also make periodic inspections of the toilet facilities to ensure their maintenance.

Jerome Aning

Slain in an alley

WHO could she be?

Even as she cried for help, an unidentified woman was stabbed dead in a dark alley in Binondo, Manila on Thursday night, police said.

Police described the woman as 25 to 30 years old, 5-foot-2, fair complexioned, and wearing a blue striped shirt, denim pants, and slippers, said detective Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District homicide section.

He said the woman had two stab wounds in the right side of the chest.

The woman's body was found in a canal along an alley in Binondo.

Witnesses told investigators that before they found the dead woman, they heard someone screaming for help. When they went to check, they saw the woman sprawled in the canal, they said. They also found the housing of a cellular phone beside her body.

The residents could not identify the woman, Villareal said.

The victim's body was taken to the Sanctuary Funeral Parlor for autopsy and safekeeping, Villareal added.

Philip C. Tubeza

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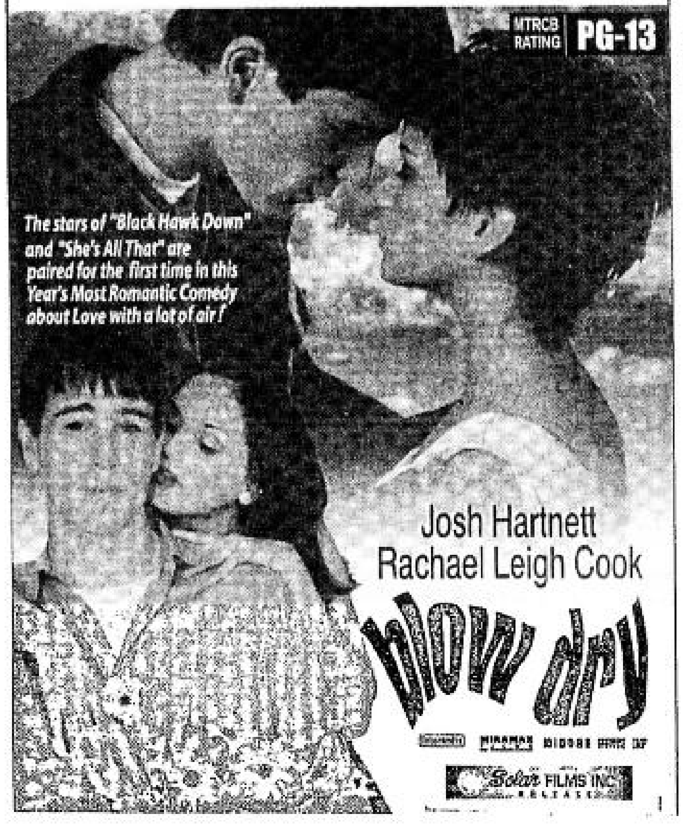
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COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO - P 13 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	MIMIC 2 - P 13 12:35, 2:25, 4:15, 6:05, 7:55, 9:45	ICE AGE - GP 10:45, 12:30, 2:15, 4:00, 5:45, 7:30, 9:20

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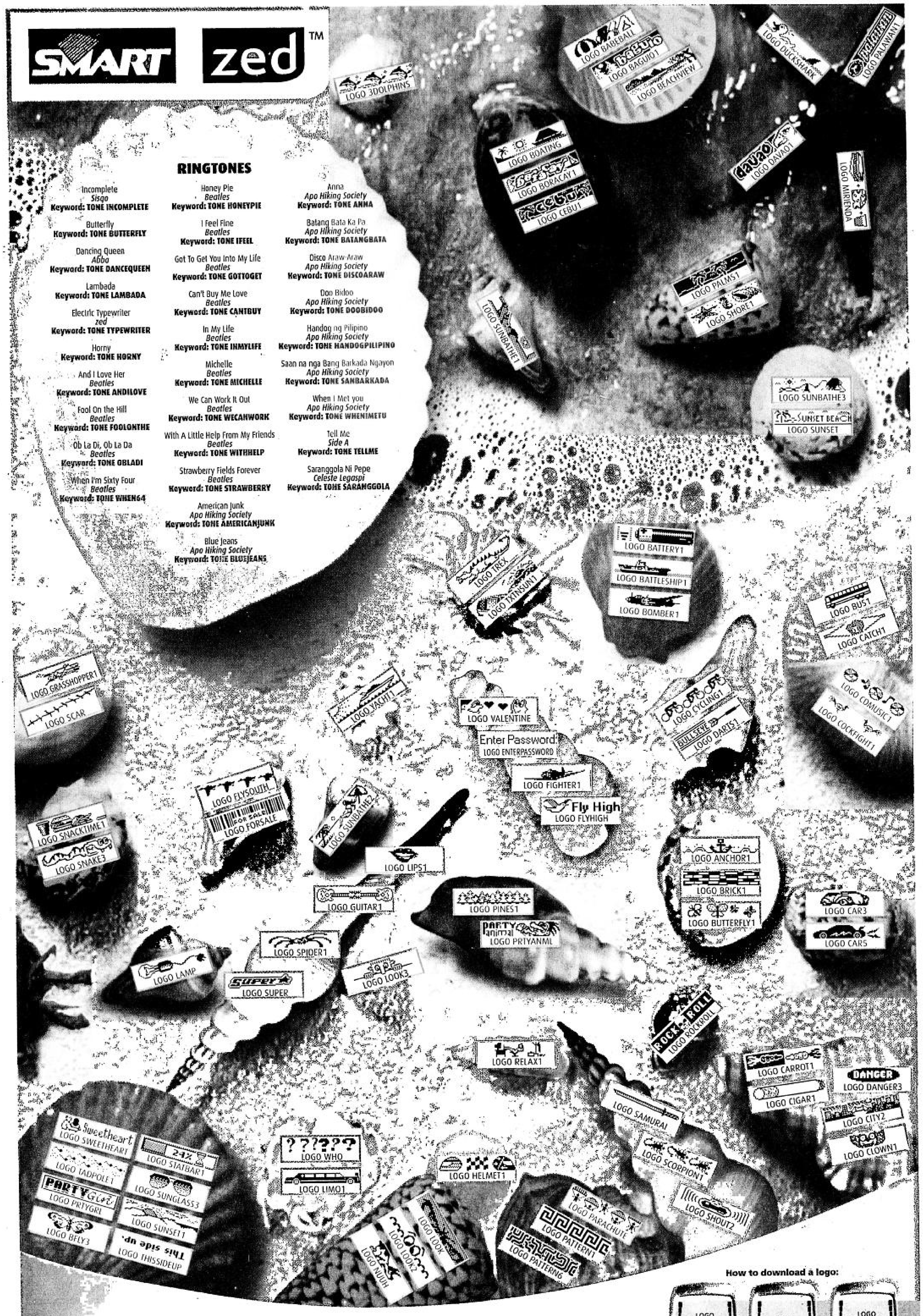
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Gov't plans sale of properties in Japan

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho yesterday said the government was planning to sell billions of pesos worth of idle land and other properties here and overseas, starting with those in Japan, to help finance local infrastructure projects and partly fund the benefits for war veterans.

The government currently owes war veterans some P14 billion in unpaid benefits, finance officials said.

Camacho said the Department of Finance, led by his newly appointed undersecretary, Inocencio Ferrer Jr., would soon conduct an inventory of idle government-owned real estate here and overseas to identify which ones could be sold or develop.

"We have to rationalize the use of government properties. We will come up with a list of idle assets that we can sell, develop or use for other purposes," he said.

He said the government would start evaluating three of the four pieces of Philippine government-owned properties in Japan for possible sale or development through a joint venture similar to the arrangement adopted for the development earlier of a property in the Roponggi district also in Tokyo.

Two properties are in Tokyo—one is a three-story building that used to house the Philippine Embassy and is now being used as a stock room, and the other is the ambassador's residence. The other properties are in Kobe and Osaka.

Of these properties, Camacho said the government would retain the ambassador's residence because of its historical value. He said the property used to be owned by the family of pop icon Yoko Ono.

Camacho said proceeds from the sale of the properties in Japan were earmarked for war veterans.

While a law has provided for the creation of a fund to finance additional benefits for war veterans, the government has not been able to appropriate a budget for this purpose due to financial constraints. The government has incurred a budget deficit in the last four years.

The task to conduct an inventory and sell idle government properties was earlier transferred to the DOF from the Office of the President, said Camacho.

He, however, said the DOF must first determine if the sale or development of these properties would be beneficial to the country considering the depressed real estate market in Japan.

While the proceeds from the sale of any of these properties in Japan were earmarked for the financing of the war veterans' benefits, Camacho said the government should also review whether the funds had not been committed to other projects like agrarian reform.

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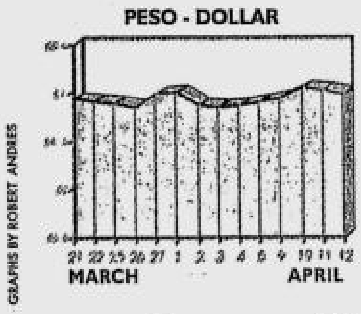

GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

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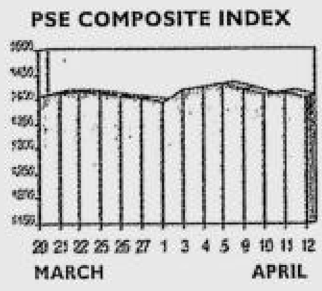

(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices fell 0.7 percent yesterday due to profit-taking and the absence of any good news to pull the market up, analysts said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 9.44 points to close at 1,405.34.

"We encountered profit-taking when the market moved up," said Jovis Vistan of AB Capital Securities Inc.

"There is just no catalyst to encourage investors to come in and buy stocks," he said, adding that "investors are just forced to hold on and wait for any other investment alternative to come up."

Turnover fell to 369 million shares worth P530.7 million from 432.13 million shares worth P627.12 million on Thursday.

Bank of the Philippine Islands fell 50 centavos to P66 while SM Prime Holdings Inc. dropped 20 centavos to P6.40.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P10 to P545 while Ayala Land Inc. ended unchanged at P7.20.

Traders said they saw little chance of the market breaking out of its current narrow range trading mode next week, though they said a fall in the main index to below 1,400 points could prompt some mild bargain-hunting.

"Next week, in the absence of any compelling news one way or another, it's going to be pretty much sideways again," Government Service Insurance System fund manager Vincent Lazatin said.

More IPOs in works as market rose in Q1

MORE initial public offerings (IPOs) are in the works in the country after the local bourse posted a 20-percent leap in the first quarter of 2002.

Investors, however, are expected to be cautious in picking up newly listed issues given the litter of bargain-priced blue chips still available and doubts about the longevity of the market's bull run this year, analysts said.

Four Philippine firms are preparing to raise a combined P1.746 billion via IPOs this year, sharply higher than the P226 million raised last year, the Philippine Stock Exchange said.

Thrift bank Citystate Savings, which listed its shares in January, and power firm Salcon Power Corp., which debuted on April 2, had blazed the IPO trail this year.

Property developer Highlands Leisure aims to list on April 23 and raise P906 million. Banco de Oro, which is the country's 13th largest bank, was targeting to list between May 20 and 24 to raise up to P778 million.

Others in the pipeline are pawnshop TFS Inc. and real estate firm Jolliville Holdings Inc. TFS plans to raise P31.5 million and Jolliville, P32.7 million.

"Definitely it is a positive sign that there are more companies willing to do IPOs this year. Companies have become more confident, given a more stable domestic economy," said A&A Securities stock analyst Astro del Castillo.

Only three companies listed their shares on the bourse last year against six in 2000 as political and economic concerns dampened market sentiment.

Newly listed firms are due for tough competition with other established counters, analysts said.

"It is difficult to compete with other listed companies, especially the blue chips. For example, Highlands' offer price is P2.13 per share but Filinvest is doing about P2.60 per share. I would rather buy other blue chips than select second-liners," A&A's Del Castillo said.

Filinvest Land Inc., which develops lower end housing projects, was down 10 centavos at P2.55 at midday yesterday.

"Valuation-wise blue chip stocks are sometimes cheaper and they have solid track record," said 2TradeAsia.com stock analyst Joanne Miguel.

Analysts were hopeful of more IPOs this year on the back of an expected market pickup in the second quarter.

Mirant Philippines, a subsidiary of Atlanta-based energy firm Mirant Corp., has said it was planning to offer to the public 10-15 percent of its shares later this year.

In the first quarter of the year, the main index rose over 20 percent, the fifth best performing Asian stock market after Karachi (45 percent), Seoul (29.1 percent), Bangkok (23.1 percent) and Jakarta (22.9 percent).

But analysts cautioned that negative factors loomed which might just spoil the party in the IPO market. **Reuters**

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

IT'S all up to us, the Filipino people, what amendments to introduce to the Constitution, according to our beloved lawmakers, who all can't wait to tinker with it.

Sure, boss, we all know that we have an antiquated Constitution. It is now already all of 15 years old. In human years, that's too old for their buddy, Romeo Jalosjos.

Anyway, so who says lawmakers are only looking after their own interest? Look, they are also trying their level best to look after the interest of the Constitution.

Somebody once told me that, perhaps, lawmakers have nothing better to do. I think somebody should suggest to them: Why don't you just play with yourselves?

All right, it's up to us. Thanks a lot! The only problem is that nobody even asked us whether or not we want to amend it in the first place.

Who gave them the idea that the Constitution needs amendments so urgently that they cannot waste any single moment? Don't tell me it's the voice from above!

* * *

FOR that should be the first question. Do we, the people, want to change our 15-year-old Constitution? It seems our lawmakers assume too much. Well, as usual!

One reason they give why they—not we—want to change the Constitution is that progress remains elusive. Apparently, it's the Constitution's fault—and nobody else's.

Therefore, in conclusion, they are already talking about the ways to go about changing the Constitution. On top of it, they are talking about specific amendments.

One way is for Congress to form itself into a constituent assembly. This follows the principle that it's all up to us, really! Only the lawmakers decide what to amend!

A constituent assembly means that they, as lawmakers, declare themselves as the rightful lawful people to decide on the amendments that only they want, to begin with.

So that's it, after all, and it's what they really mean when they say the people will decide the changes! We choose from the items they will force upon us themselves!

* * *

NOW, they also found a surefire way in dealing with the issue on "consensus." This is their way of telling us that it's us, not them, the lawmakers, who want the amendments.

To hide the truth that, actually, the lawmakers—not the people—want to touch the Constitution, the lawmakers are going to call for a nationwide barangay assembly.

It's such a big assembly of thousands of neighborhoods. They cannot help but ask the major tough question: Do we, even if it kills us, really want to get free *hopia*?

If, in the barangay assembly, we say "yes" to that crucial question, there's nothing else lawmakers can do but submit to the will of the people to amend the Constitution.

Thus, the stage is set for the change in our form of government. A certain group has been pushing for that since 10 years ago, when the Constitution was just five years old.

They wanted to change the Constitution, well, not for any other reason but love of country that they wanted to show by raising their chances to put themselves in power.

* * *

THEY want to change the form of government. That is, from presidential, which we have today, to parliamentary, which we had under martial law only on paper.

In the presidential system, we choose the leader ourselves. Each of us can vote for the President of the Republic. It's all up to us—directly.

But some lawmakers have already decided for us that it's not the system for us. They think it's like a beauty contest. Popular candidates can win, even movie actors, for instance.

That is not so in the parliamentary (from the Latin par for "bad golf score," the ancient Tagalog liamen for "to write a letter," and the Greek tary for "hey, yo, wassup").

Actually, under the parliamentary system, a small group of politicians chooses our leader for us. First we elect them, and then they elect their leader.

There, by wanting a new system where they decide who the leader should be, lawmakers are saying they do not trust us to choose our leader. See, it's all up to us!

* * *

WELL, they may have a point. From the beginning, we elected all our leaders directly. And just take a look at where we are. We are still very poor. Thanks, of course, also to them!

That is why, probably, Gloriaetta herself has voiced out a concern. She said amending the Constitution is not our priority. Meaning, we have better things to do.

They answered her back by saying it's actually not up to her because it's actually up to us, the people. Sure, Gloriaetta has no role in it whatsoever. She's only our leader.

For when you come down to it, we keep on blaming the system for our own shortcomings as a people. It's not the form of government. It's not the system.

In Vietnam, people do not go hungry. Food there is cheap. In comparison, in North Korea, a lot of children are starving. Look, Bulok, they have the same system!

Or for that matter, they have the parliamentary system in Singapore and in Bangladesh. Did that make the majority of people in Bangladesh rich?

* * *

ALL right, let's say the lawmakers are correct that they should decide for us that we, in fact, do need some major changes in the Constitution.

So we do a complete overhaul of the system, and we change the form of government. Parliamentary. Federal. Monarchy. Whatever!

We wake up one day, and we have a different system. Yet, we have the same people running things! It's like changing clothes without taking a bath. We still stink.

Methinks it's not really the show. It's more about the people running the show. So who are those people who will run the show after we shall have changed it?

Who else? We will still have the very same people, staying forever and ever in power, who now are telling us that the Constitution needs amendments. *Naykopo*!

BPI expects 5-10% profit growth in '02

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANK of the Philippine Islands, the country's second largest bank, is expecting a slightly lower first-quarter profit this year compared with a "spectacular" net income level in the same period last year, BPI president Xavier Loinaz told reporters yesterday following the bank's annual stockholders meeting.

In the first quarter of 2001, BPI posted a net income of P2.1 billion, equivalent to 40 percent of the year's total profit worth P5.25 billion.

Loinaz said the first quarter profit this year might be lower than last year's P2.1 billion, but said that profit was expected to grow by 5 to 10 percent for the whole year.

He said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the economy would do better this year than last year.

BPI's main thrusts this year include the expansion of its total loan portfolio and disposal of non-performing assets, the BPI chief said.

"Our top priority is to sell non-performing assets and improve asset yield," Loinaz said.

As of end-last year, BPI's non-performing loans accounted for 11.6 percent of its total loan portfolio while its real property owned or acquired amounted to P7.7 billion.

He said the bank would likely set aside P1 billion to P1.5 billion in additional loan loss reserves and write-off as much as P2 billion in worthless or unrecoverable assets.

CADP raising ₱500M in capital

CENTRAL Azucarera Don Pedro Inc. has registered an additional P500 million worth of shares, making it among the Securities and Exchange's top three corporations in terms of paid-up capital increases for the period April 3-9.

In a statement, the SEC said the capital increase was aimed at funding the company's working capital and plant modernization.

Electronic equipment manufacturer Fuji-Haya Electric Corp. ranked second with a paid-up capital stock of P50 million.

The increase came from Cosmo Tech Hong Kong's Ltd.'s full payment of its subscription worth P50 million. This brought up Fuji-Haya Electric Corp.'s foreign ownership to 67.65 percent from 21.43 percent.

Chinatrust Forex Corp. came in third with P44.738 million worth of shares subscribed and paid in cash.

Of the paid-in capital increase, P17.895 million came from Chinatrust (Phils.) Commercial Bank and P26.84 million from Chinatrust Bank Taipei.

Also, the SEC said that it had approved the applications of Mardison Finance and Development Corp. and Americh Financing Corp. for licenses to operate as financing companies.

Both companies have complied with registration and capital requirements under the Financing Company Act of 1998, the SEC said.

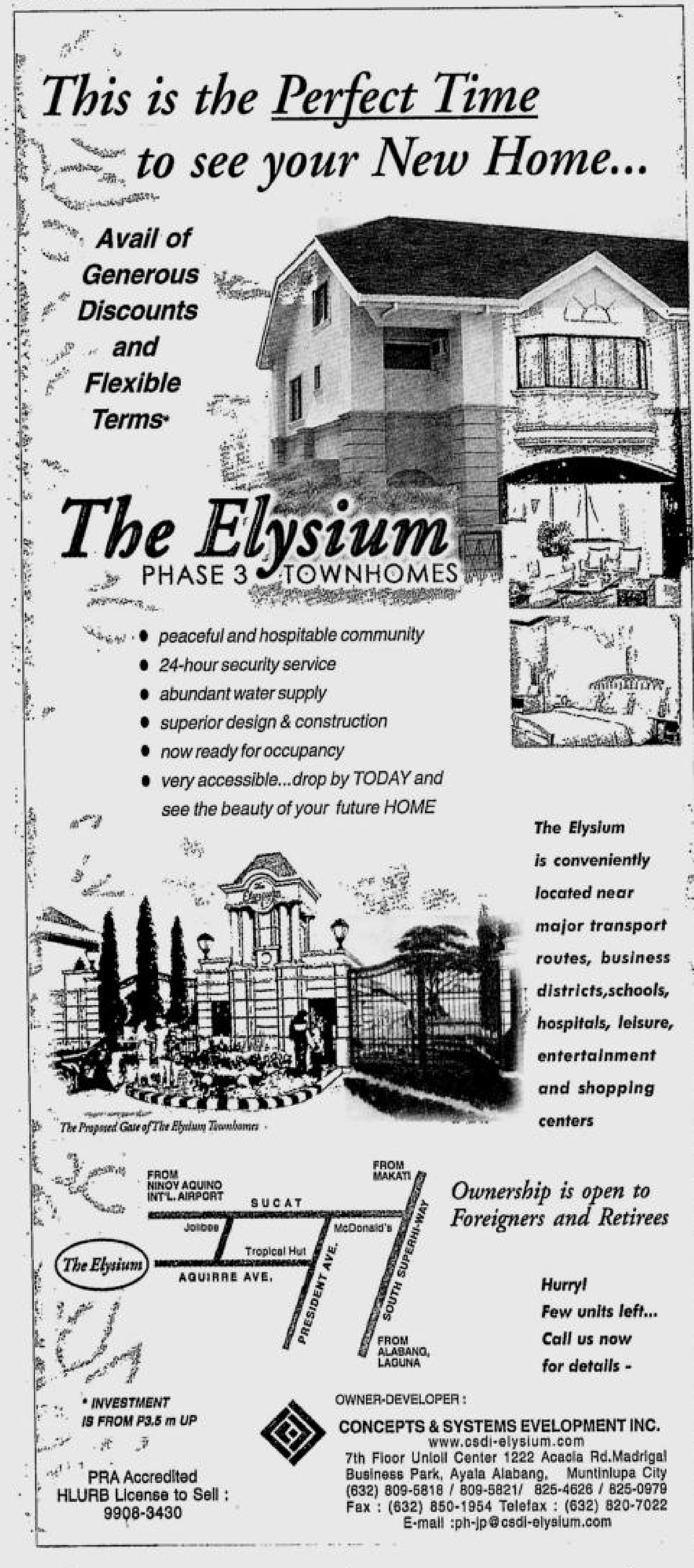
PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Friday, April 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	5,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	66.5	67	66	66	1,996,800
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	41	41.5	41	41	157,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	79.5	79.5	79.5	79.5	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	41.5	42	41.5	41.5	111,700
Phil. Bank of Comm.	80	80	80	80	600
Philippine National Bank	60.5	60.5	60	60	5,500
Phil. Savings Bank	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	2,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	250,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1385	1380	1385	5,080
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1110	1115	1105	1115	4,420
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	35	35	34	34	6,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.65	0.66	0.65	0.66	1,320,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	805	805	800	805	5,550
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	4,900,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.27	0.27	.0.27	0.27	30,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	19,000
Piltel	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.5	7,380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	550	550	545	545	99,700
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	41,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	29.5	30	29.5	30	5,100
Manila Electric Co. B	47	47.5	47	47	913,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	2,145,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.84	2,056,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	50,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.95	2.95	2.85	2.85	1,640,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	20,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Sanitary Wares Mfg. Corp.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	239,800
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.75	145,600
RFM Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.46	1.46	457,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.78	1.8	1.78	1.8	18,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48	47.5	47.5	78,400
San Miguel Corp. B	62	62.5	62	62	32,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	90,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	20,000
Atok-Big Wedge.Inc. B	11	11	11	11	1,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.4	734,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.08	2.04	2.08	110,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	161,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	60,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.72	21,400,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.27	0.28	0.27	0.28	300,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.0875	0.085	0.0875	1,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	536,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	80,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30	30	1,180,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.135	0.135	0.13	0.135	230,000
Ionics Inc.	7.8	7.8	7.8	7.8	5,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.85	1,520,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	200,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	3,390,000
Music Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	20,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	200,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	0.0875	100,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	40,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	4,750,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	100,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	35	35	34.5	34.5	113,800
DMCI Holdings, Inc- Pref.	765	770	765	770	7,770
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	785	785	785	20
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.2	7.3	7.2	7.2	8,772,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	13,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0:28	0.28	0.28	600,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	870,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.6	12,895,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.6	6.3	6.4	10,186,000
UrbanCorp.Realty Dev., Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	300,000
MINING					
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.0525	0.0525	0.048	0.049	52,100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	320,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	250,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	100,000
OIL					
Interport Res.	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	4,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	5,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	0.0048	5,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.2	0.23	0.2	0.23	440,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	100,000

CURRENCIES

April 12, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.132246	1.000000	50.9950
Japan	Yen	0.008612	0.007606	0.3879
United Kingdom	Pound	1.628850	1.438600	73.3614
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.145168	0.128212	6.5382
Switzerland	Franc	0.682446	0.602736	30.7365
Canada	Dollar	0.712867	0.629604	32.1067
Singapore	Dollar	0.616591	0.544573	27.7705
Australia	Dollar	0.604832	0.534188	27.2409
Bahrain	Dinar	3.003466	2.652661	135.2724
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.301925	0.266660	13.5983
Brunei	Dollar	0.615585	0.543685	27.7252
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000119	0.000105	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.026053	0.023010	1.1734
UAE	Dirham	0.308279	0.272272	13.8845
Korea	Won	0.000858	0.000758	0.0387
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.883200	45.0388
Brazil	Real	0.499447	0.441112	22.4945
Denmark	Kroner	0.134504	0.118794	6.0579
India	Rupee	0.023187	0.020479	1.0443
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.297960	0.263158	13.4197
Mexico	New Peso	0.124505	0.109963	5.6076
New Zealand	Dollar	0.501704	0.443105	22.5961
Norway	Kroner	0.131097	0.115785	5.9045
Pakistan	Rupee	0.018902	0.016694	0.8513
South Africa	Rand	0.101003	0.089206	4.5491
Sweden	Kroner	0.109903	0.097066	4.9499
Syria	Pound	0.025733	0.022727	1.1590
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032452	0.028662	1.4616
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001332	0.001176	0.0600



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LEVY ON CEMENT IMPORTS

Trade chief agrees to reimburse

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TRADE Secretary Manuel Roxas II has agreed to instruct the Bureau of Customs to reimburse payments made by cement importers since December last year for a provisional duty on cement imports.

Roxas, however, has also taken the position that the government will continue to impose the provisional duty until its scheduled expiry in June this year.

He explained that while the Safeguard Measures Act was specific on the reimbursement of the P78 million collected from the provisional duty on cement imports in the last three months, "it was silent on whether the provisional duty should be lifted after the Tariff Commission has reached a decision."

A provisional duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag of cement was imposed in December when Roxas endorsed Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp.'s petition to impose punitive duties and quotas on imports that the group claimed were competing unfairly with local players.

The provisional duty was supposed to take effect for only 200 days or until the Tariff Commission had reached a decision.

On March 15, the commission rejected the trade department's findings and junked Philcemcor's petition. It ruled that while cement imports surged, the industry did not suffer injury and cement imports did not pose any imminent threat to the local industry.

Despite this ruling and threats of stiff sanctions, Roxas is standing pat on his position that the provisional duty should be implemented to its full 200 days.

He insisted that the Tariff Commission's decision touched on the petition for permanent duty and quotas.

Former Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, author of the Safeguard Measures Act, has warned Roxas that he may be "dismissed from office and perpetually disqualified from holding any public office" if he refuses to heed the Tariff Commission's ruling.

Enrile said the provisional duty should have been discontinued and previous collections reimbursed within 15 days after the Tariff Commission had reached its decision.

The trade secretary already made a serious blunder in interpreting the law when he declared that the trade department had the final say on whether the cement industry deserved safeguard measures.

Citing the justice department's opinion on the issue, Enrile said Roxas could only modify the Tariff Commission in a positive ruling.

"The categorical and prohibitory language of the safeguard act precludes a review by the trade secretary of a negative finding of the commission," he said.

Philcemcor, meanwhile, is asking the government to hold on to the almost P80 million in safeguard revenues it has collected from importers "pending a formal and final decision by the trade department on the Tariff Commission's recommendation not to impose tariffs on imported cement."

In a statement, Philcemcor spokesperson Edcel Lagman said these revenues "represent the government's rightful share in the importers' inordinate profits of around P80 per bag given that they bring in their cement at as low as P58 per bag but sell the same for as high as P145 per bag to consumers."

"The consumers were never benefited by imports, so let the government get its share instead. A profit of about P80 per bag is scandalous. We are not talking of free trade here but of illegal and unfair trade practices," he said.

RP to lose $13M in okra income

THE PHILIPPINES is in danger of losing over $13 million worth of earnings from okra exported to Japan.

Tokyo is imposing tight quarantine measures on fresh okra imports after discovering high pesticide use among producers of this product.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said he was asking farmers here to lessen their use of pesticides to prevent sanctions from Japan.

"We should cut heavy use of pesticides and shift to integrated pest management to protect the industry and health," he stressed.

Japanese quarantine inspectors have been detaining all okra shipments from the Philippines since Jan. 23 after they uncovered a load with pesticide residues way above acceptable levels.

Since then, the country's okra exports to Japan have been falling to an average 16.4 tons worth $45,000 per week from the previous average of 88.8 tons during the '80s.

Montemayor said the pesticide incident was only the second in 20 years that the Philippines had been exporting okra to Japan.

Agriculture officials have begun training okra farmers on integrated pest management and other alternative ways to lessen their use of pesticides.

Okra exporters have also voluntarily submitted samples for residue analysis at the Bureau of Plant Industry before shipping them to Japan. *Christine A. Gaylican*

PNB turnaround won't need new capital, says Camacho

PHILIPPINE National Bank will no longer need any new capital once it completes the conversion of P7.8 billion worth of government advances into equities, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said yesterday.

"New capital for PNB is not necessary at this point, but I don't want to pre-empt the new management if they want to do that," Camacho said in an interview.

Camacho expressed optimism that the government and PNB majority owner Lucio Tan would be able to turn the bank around and sell their joint 67-percent stake in two to three years, five years ahead of their current schedule.

As of end-2001, the country's sixth-largest bank had a capital of only P14.5 billion.

Its capital adequacy ratio—a measure of its ability to cover risks with its existing capital base—stood at 11.2 percent, just slightly higher than the 10-percent minimum requirement set by the central bank.

This figure is expected to rise to 17 percent and make PNB at par with most of the country's major lenders once the P7.8 billion worth of loans extended by the government to the bank is converted into equities.

Tan infused some P10 billion into PNB in September 1999. A month later, the bank sought P15 billion in assistance from the central bank and another P10 billion from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. to meet heavy withdrawals triggered by uncertainties hounding the administration of then President Joseph Estrada.

Industry analysts have said that while PNB's capital may be enough to cover risks, it may not be sufficient to make the bank profitable and its shares attractive to investors.

Camacho disclosed that the government and Tan's group were set to sign a P25-billion debt-to-equity conversion deal late this month or early May.

Out of the P25 billion worth of loans extended by the government, some P7.8 billion would be converted into equities. This would raise the government's stake in PNB to 44.98 percent and reduce Tan's stake to 44.98 percent. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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NOTICE OF SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Upon the call of Mr. Pablo B. Roman, Jr., President of Capitol Hills Golf and Country Club, Inc., notice is hereby given that a Special Stockholders' Meeting of the corporation shall be held on April 23, 2002 at 3:00 in the afternoon. The venue of the meeting shall be at the Camelia Room, CHGCC Clubhouse, located at Old Balara, Quezon City.

The agenda of the meeting shall be limited to the following items:

To confirm and ratify proposed amendments to the Revised Memorandum of Agreement, dated June 5, 2001 entered into with Ayala Land, Inc., particularly on the following subject matters:

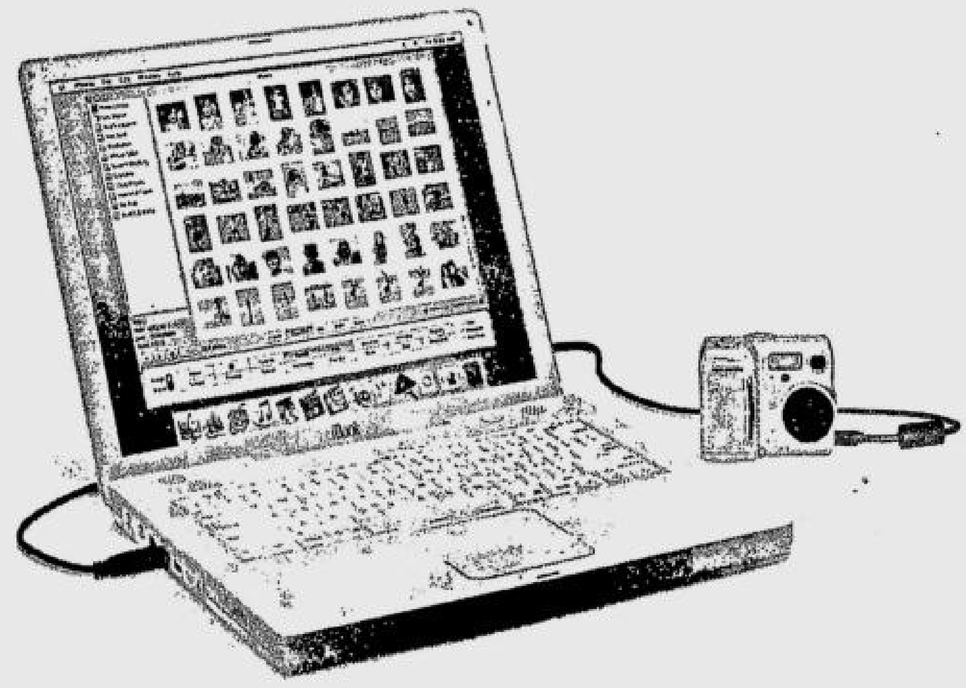
a) The re-definition of which portions or parcels of the golf course shall be conveyed to and developed by ALI which shall not however exceed 23.5 hectares.
b) The receipt of consideration for the conveyed parcels in the form of developed lots without changing the value of the consideration as against the previous agreement which was to receive compensation under a cash override scheme.
c) The proposal to accelerate the development of the precision golf course in Quezon City from the parcels as re-defined and which development need not anymore await the development of the proposed golf course, before the same is started as contained in the original MOA between ALI and Capitol Hills Golf Club.

MATIAS V. DEFENSOR
Corporate Secretary
and Legal Counsel

Attested by:

PABLO B. ROMAN, JR.
President

Apple



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PGA Cars, Inc.
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Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD Matrinco Bldg. 2178 P. Tamo 8175071

PERSONAL

ACCOUNTANT

ACCTG FS ITR CPA 3667566

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

BLDG HOUSE CONST. REPAIR RENOV ROOF PAINT 7400490

Metal Fabrications 9617146

MASSAGE

'02 SPICEBOYZ 8890170

Adams Tower (M) 8325220

AKHIN THAI MASSAGE#0917 4116004 Mla & Cebu srvcs

DAX•09198865169

Glen9264664-09198457226

JAMES MALE 24HRS SERVICE 8511883 ; 0916-4404374

MALE 16 PALANAN 7320659

Pretty, European Girl 0919-2525922

PURELY MASSAGE 7516649

VIP-M/F-24H-SVC 8312373 Romy

X-TREME MALE TEL 7459000

MASSAGE BY BEAUTY TOUCH
HOME & HOTEL SVC.
FOR MEN & WOMEN
853-9836 • 852-6372

REFLEXOLOGY

Edgar 09198294488 7503640 HHS

Edward 7289285 09183257044

FEELS GOOD
Reflexology Center
412-7758/413-4027

MALE SPA 562 BANAUE 7411426

REFLEX CARLA 716-4898

Ryan 0919-6658730/8445117

Wizard Massage 4213197

TUTORIAL LESSONS

1-ON-1 VBasic6, SQL, Java VFoxPro-MCP-Joey 4211838

Customize Buss Application Program Invetory Acct Payroll Billing HR 4211838 Joey

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

IDEAL MAIDS YAYA 4934583

IDEAL MAIDS PROV'L 4934583

BEST MAID 411-1593/741-6082

BEST MAIDS 8533504•8533505

EFFICIENT MAIDS/NBI Low Ofc Fee 7769512/8227269

Good-Maid-Yaya-Boy 7570579

Help Agency 532-1947 • 532-8376

MAID fr. Prov. 1st time Mnla. call SMCL 4450513/2914524

Maid Yaya Intl Cook 7572089

Maids Boy Driver 4128513

MAIDS w/ NBI 4216053

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

MAIDS W/NBI 5349075

MAIDS•2594067•2590869

NURSE•Midwife•Oldsitter•Yaya 8720265•8735062•8712372

Prov'l MAID YAYA COOK LABA BOY DRIVER 872-2792•873-5271

RELIABLE HONEST MAIDS W/ NBI **4213253**

We provide sufficient and trusted Maids, Yaya, Cook 4103878/ 4120556/ 7569029

Yaya Maid Cook Laba 9133924

LIPAT BAHAY

L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

A-1 Lipat Bahay 4313974

•CHEAP LBAHAY 9260424•

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

LIPAT BAHAY
w/5 helpers 24 hrs. svc 7128861 / 7315750

MISCELLANEOUS

A-1 Plumbing Svs 4107598

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

4 UNIT 3STRY NR DLSU 8992148

LA-250m² FA-345m² Gov's Forbes gud Investmnt 6341212

Makati Prop.
LA115m² FA345m² 7898612
0917-4743064 • Zeny

PROVINCIAL

Owner leaving titled properties in M. FORTICH BUKIDNON 15 mins. to Delmonte Golf Club 30 mins to CDO residential Hse & Lot 5BDR, 2TB (1,380 sqm) next at commercial lot (450 sqm) Along hi-way residential lot w/ orchard (3,551 sqm) P10M package price negotiable Ideal for Vacation House/B&B, Inn /Orchard
contact Rudy/Vilma (032)231-2733, (0917)740-6325, (0918)794-9105

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

HOUSE & LOT

ALABANG

Ayalabang 10M 2Sty Mkll Condo 2Brm 3.7M 776-6018

LAS PINAS

150sqm 2BR 2TB 776-4676

MARIKINA

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Rush! Calumpang LA 293 2BR+1TB 0917-2429078

PARANAQUE

Bung LA300m² 3BR2TB Qtrs w/ TB H²O Garden 0224569

MGV 330m² Dream Home w/ Jacuzi Etc 7725027 to view

Tahanan Vill 5BR 5TB Family Music Study Terrace Atrium 4Car GrgeTile Roof FA 564m² LA 769m². See to appreciate. Call 8421054/ 0917-532-1678 Direct Buyers only

PASIG

B'ful 5BR+Den Lanai Bar Fam Rm Jap Gden 3½ TB w/ Jacuzzi BTub 3CR Grg Dr Mds Rms 12M Neg. • 642-8310 Greenwoods, Pasig

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

FOR SALE
FURNISHED & UNFURNISHED
ONE BEATRIZ TOWER
1st Class COMM'L-OFFICE RES'L CONDO
B-4 BUYING / INVESTING
COMPARE & CONSIDER:
1. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
2. STRUCTURAL DESIGN
3. 1st CLASS AMENITIES
NAME IT... WE HAVE IT!!!
4. ACCESSIBILITY - SCHOOLS (Ateneo UP Miriam Koiska PSBA NCBA) BANKS Other Bus Establishments & TRANSPO to any part of M Mla
5. X'lent VIEW (360°) of the Metropo
5a w/roof - top S. POOL & Garden
7. WHY BUY IF NOT FINISHED
BUY & TRANSFER NOW!
FEW UNITS LEFT
MASTER C RE-DE, INC.
TEL#: 922-4463 / 921-4883
433-7668 / 433-6842

HOUSE & LOT

QUEZON CITY

★Nr UP ATENEO QC 6.5M 18 Mahabagin Teachers Vill 5BR4TB Call 913-2701 ; 09192829330 ; 913-2403

Malaya St Cor. Banaue 7314018

PROJ.7 NEAR MUNOZ 200LA 2BR 2BA 3.4M T4137005

SIKATUNA 466m² 4BR with Big Lawn 7M Call 9215479

SM NORTH BNEW 9263307

U.P.RES'L VILLAS
Ideal family abode safe accessible 4260235•0267371

RIZAL

Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

Nr Antipolo Church LA 346 FA 150 Call 634-1212

nr Sn Mateo 360T 9390299

PROVINCIAL

HL LA400sqm Bungalow Magsaysay Ave. Naga City (02) 642-8310 • 473-7160

Laguna Bel Air
FA-78 LA-110 Newly Renov. 1.65M Neg. (049) 541-0459 • 449-2481 • 0917-8128700

Rush Baguio 500m² 3hses Furn Cheap 7M Call 9215479

OTHER AREAS

PHILIPPINES PARADISE
For Sale Newly Constructed two-storey house 4Bed/4Bath, Living/Dining & Domestic Spectacular Ocean & Beach Views 5 Minutes walk to Beach & Marina 1-1/2 hours South of Manila Close to Yacht & Marine Facilities With 60 Ton travel lift, 100% Securel Building another 6 Houses Cost $225K Sporting Facilities Sailing, Fishing, Golfing, Diving (Wreck & Technical) For Viewing see Webpage: www.pacificinteriorssupply.com/for_sale.htm
For more inquiries, e-mail us at: waynem@skyinet.net
Or call BRIAN (0917)255-8135

LOT

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREENHEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PASIG

Primelot Greenpark 300m2 nr Robinson 931-6928 NET

QUEZON CITY

NORTH FAIRVIEW356 / 300LA FENCED/GATED LOTS T4137005

PROVINCIAL

ATTENTION
Manufacturers & Investors
Cavite Light Ind'l Park
Phase 1 Ready for Move-in
Phase II at Php. 1,600/sqm
Maguyam Rd. Carmona Cavite
Tel. 635-8108/631-4069 Jonathan
Brokers are Welcome

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd., Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY
810-7183 810-8019
815-2144 829-5081
713-3422 872-7603
961-7521 871-8318
776-4604 893-4206
Welcome Brokers & Agents
write to
fortereally@skyinet.net

LOT

PROVINCIAL

★METRO, BAGUIO★80m²up DP20T, P2,200 m.a. 4198102

RUSH! Ideal 4 Resort Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4654 Totoy

TAAL Blngs 200m from Diversion Rd LA6794m² P1.4M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P660T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

MANILA

NR LA SALLE TAFT
Twnhse/4stry/3br/3tb/grge P3.073M up 8903461 loc 34

SN ANDRES MLA
NR SSHIWAY Bnew Twnhse/4stry/4br/3tb/grge/maid P3.085M up 8903461 loc 34

PASIG

Pacific Place
Nr. Tektite, Pearl Dr. Ortigas Ctr. 3BR 1MR Furnished 2Tel Rent Sale • 687-3598 / 0917-8106318

T-hse 4Sale LA-88m² FA-280m² 3br 4tb w/2Prkng 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

115sqm Panay Ave. 2BR 2TB 374-2572 • 0917-4032151

158 sqm 3br 3tb P4M St. Ignatius Call 634-1212

Nova QC 9-new Townhse 0917-8349005

RUSH 2BR 31SQM LA 800T NEG T.SORA V.AVE 2547903 NENETE

Rush!TandangSora 3br+1md 2tb P2.5M 0917-5140997

Celebrity Place
TOWNHOMES
BESIDE
CELEBRITY SPORTS
Capitol Hills QC
nr UP & Ateneo
3 TWNHSE MODELS
TO CHOOSE FROM
3BR 2CAR GARAGE
MAIDS ROOM &
RELAXING GARDEN
20%DOWN
BAL ZERO INTEREST
PRIVILEGE MEMBERSHIP
AT CELEBRITY CLUB
FOR MORE INFO CALL
Celebrity Place Office
9520434 to 35
9312116
BROKER / AGENTS WELCOME

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
IMPLEMENTING TASK FORCE
BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITION
(in compliance with RA 7041)

(1) ENGINEER II - SG 16, Item No. EFIP 6-4, Bachelor's degree in Engineering relevant to the job; 1 year of relevant experience; 4 hours of relevant training, Licensed Civil Engineer

Qualified applicants must send their resumé, transcript of records, recent ID picture and other credentials to:
HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
DepEd-EDPITAF
Dorm D, DepEd Complex
Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Deadline for submission of application is on April 16, 2002.
Previous applicants need not apply.

(PDI – Apr. 13 & 14, 2002)

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/ APT

QUEZON CITY

UNION SQ ONE FA80m² P1.9M 1BR 2T&B Vic 8903461 loc. 27

SAN JUAN

RUSH !!!
Promenade Place SJ Townhse 3 Storey 186m² 3BR 2.5TB 4AC Kitchn Appliances, Heater 2Cargarage 5Min Greenhills 5.5M 09178334323 7215703

MEMORIAL LOT

LOYOLA MEMORIAL 4-LOTS 7351675 - FLOR

RESORT

BEACH RESORT Mindoro Bar/Rest/Priv Bungalows Ph 09164247378

★ZAMBALES★near beach w/hse 2M 0916-3741571

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

3BR 2TB W/GRGE 8992148

QUEZON CITY

12E V.Ilustre cor DTuazon 2br P8T 9207101/0919-3652573

2BR 135 K6 Kamias P8,500

2BR 2TB NR. MKT CHURCH SCHool PROJ.8 Q.C. 9279844 / 4542047

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

4BR 3T&B 2CarGrge Basement 16.5T Ireneville 9285447 0917-8171173 / 0917-8403214

MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/ phone CP09195546815 Didi

QUEZON CITY

2BR NR ATENEO 7T 6819727

4br 2tb near FEU 9318896

½Duplex 4 small family 2BR Srvts Qtr with grge P7500/mo #5 Amsterdam St. Capitol Park Homes Sub behind Ever Commonwelath Tel 338-1567

TSORA 4BR 2TB 952-2409

MAKATI

SANLO DUPLEX 5268048

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR w/prkg, a/c, ref, bed, living & dining sets P15T 897-8595

KWOOD Mkti 3BR3TB maid qr 20T prkg 2.5T 8995632 Irene

QUEZON CITY

2BR 1TB Prkg Nr Edsa SM North P8,450/mo. 0916-4833454

Condo 2BR 1TB Prkg Nr Edsa SM North 8,450/mo 0916-4833454

FOR LEASE

COMM'L & Res. units 1075 P. Tamo cor. Kalayaan Ave. Makati 562-8097 Dina

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

ROOM & BOARD

7.5T NAKPIL APARTELLE MALATE 522-8593

w/T&BATH 5333688 LADIES

BEDSPACE

NR DLSU W/FOOD P6T 8992148

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2% w/o TAKING CAR 3670169

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L Business Personal Gigie/Ernie 8903461 loc. 25/23

BUSINESS RENTAL

524 EDSA KAL 3FLRS 3612663

BODEGA NORTHERN HILLS 3612663

Nr BUENDIA along PTAMO 38/85/62/185m² 1st class Bldg. 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

Pacific Ctr Ortigas Gud View 142ms. Ready 4 Office 631-0856 / 0917-8117350

PRIME COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT/SALE HERRERA ST. LEGASPI VILL. MAKATI
367 sq.m.
Ideal for banks, restaurant, bars, etc.
Call BETH OR MRS. ONG @ 243-6856 to 57

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

Starex Van 1999 Turbo Inter Cooler 1stOwner well kept P650T 7134170 Cell # 09192892559

ISUZU

ELF CANTER JAPAN 913-2224

MERCEDES

'99 MB100 CMC
425T • 0917-3453229

MITSUBISHI

Pajero Trooper Patrol Hi Ace Call 9120647 09178342020

TOYOTA

TOWNACE A/T 238T 9267433

OTHER CAR BRANDS

Delica Besta Town-Lite Ace 9120647 09178342020

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

Genset/Tractors 4x4 Pison Eng Welder, Loader, GCutter &others 3610215/3672002

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex MB100 Coaster Bus Call 631-3400 • 637-7396

AC& non-AC Bus 932-9259

BNEW HI ACE VAN 6252008

BNew L3 8533103/09163443087

BNew Pregio L3 8254058

Strengthening the Foundations of
Lasting Peace and Development in Southern Mindanao

URGENT RECRUITMENT

An international development organization implementing peace and development in Southern Philippines is in search of a qualified individual to fill-up the position of **Programme Technical Assistant (PTA)** to be based in Cotabato City. Under the direct supervision of and reporting to the Programme Coordinator (PC), the PTA shall provide technical support to the programme as follows:

A. *Programme Planning*
1. Subject to the PC's review of the Programme Support Coordination Team (PSCT) Units, Area Coordination Team (ACT) and the Component's workplans, assists the PC in consolidating the programme's overall plans.
2. Provide technical support to the PSCT, joint PSCT and ACT and joint PSCT, ACT and Component's planning activities.

B. *Programme Implementation and Coordination*
1. Provide assistance to the PC in drafting communications related to programme policies, guidelines and direction.
2. Assist in facilitating PSCT services to programme-wide activities like meetings of the Executive Committee (EXCOM), Programme Advisory Group (PAG) and other bodies, conference and workshops.
3. Assist in preparing drafts of working papers for the programme.
4. Assist the PC in monitoring follow-up actions of the EXCOM and PAG agreements and decisions.
5. As directed by the PC, conduct liaison work with programme partners like donors agencies, national like agencies, local governments, civil society groups and the client-beneficiaries.
6. Provide assistance in reviewing programme-related proposals coming from the different units and ACTs for decision-making consideration and coordinating the same to the Administrative and finance Units.
7. Assist the PC in facilitating coordination and complementation of programme Component's activities.

C. *Programme Monitoring and Evaluation*
1. Work closely with the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) and Management Information System (MIS) Specialists in undertaking periodic monitoring and assessment activities and installing and developing the management information systems of the programme respectively and in the preparation of corresponding reports and related communications

D. *Reporting*
1. Assist the PC in the preparation of the consolidated programme accomplishment reports and the packaging of the same for presentation purposes.
2. Provide technical support in the preparation of the EXCOM and Programme Advisory Group agenda papers.

Qualifications
- At least five (5) years experience in rural social development work, preferably with exposure with international development agencies and Mindanao programmes/projects
- Masteral units in social development or development management
- Must be proficient in oral communication and skilled in technical writing in both English and Filipino
- Must be familiar with project Programme Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (PIME)
- Can run windows-based computer applications (word, spread sheets, database, powerpoint and other programs)
- Familiar with the culture, history and current situation in Mindanao.
- Able to converse in any of the local dialects (preferably Visayan)
- Can work under pressure Preferably all applicants should come from Mindanao.

Please submit your application letter and comprehensive resume on or before **19 April 2002** to Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building, 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box, 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), Tel. Nos. (632) 8924528/8920611 to 25, Fax Nos. (632) 8164061/8939598; Email Address: bc_admin.ph@undp.org

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting offers to purchase/lease by way of sealed bids the following commercial/industrial properties on an *"As Is - Where Is"* basis:

I. FIRST TENDER
a. SALE

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE/ SQ. METER	TERMS
001-004	4 lots, 1,050 to 5,099 sqm. With TCTs	Pleasant Hills Subd. San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP10,000.00	Cash
005-013	9 lots, 132.55 to 300.77 sqm. With TCTs	Phase 1-B, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	15,000.00 to 15,500.00	Cash
014-028	15 lots, 240 to 1,113 sqm. With TCTs	Towerville Subd. Brgy. Santo Cristo San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	3,000.00 to 3,250.00	Cash
b. LEASE				
029	1 lot, 14,692 sqm.	Vitas, Tondo, Manila	53.33/sq.m./mo. or 783,524.36 per month	1yr adv. rental based on offer
II. SECOND TENDER - SALE				
030-042	13 lots, 80 to 225 sqm. With TCTs	Kadungganan Village Tacloban City	1,500.00 to 2,500.00	Cash

Interested parties may purchase/lease one/any or all the lots offered, details of which may be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the Commercial & Industrial Bids and Awards Committee (COINBAC), c/o CIED, Mezzanine Floor, NHA Building, Elliptical Road, Q.C. For Tacloban properties, bidding materials are available in the Kadungganan Project Office. For inquiry, please call Evelyn V. Ramos or Neri A. Subido at the fl. tel. nos.: 922-3001, 923-0390, 928-4561 loc. 302-303.

	SCHEDULE	ALL PROPERTIES (except Tacloban)	TACLOBAN
A.	Submission of Pre-qualification Requirements	April 8 to 18, '02 until 5 p.m. CIED Mezzanine Flr. NHA Building, Q.C.	April 8 to 23, '02 until 5 p.m. Kadungganan Vil. Proj. Calanipawan Rd., Sagkahan District, Tacloban City
B.	Pre-Bid Conference	April 15, '02 10:00 a.m. Operations Center 3rd Floor, NHA Bldg.	April 23, '02 11:00 a.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City
C.	Submission of Sealed Bids	April 22, '02 up to 12 noon Operations Center	April 25, '02 up to 12 noon KVP Office, Tacloban City
D.	Opening of Bids	April 22, '02 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	April 25, '02 2:00 p.m. KVP Office, Tacloban City

The NHA reserves the right to reject any or all bid offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager & Chairman, COINBAC

(PDI--April 6 & 13, 2002)

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

BRDAL MB VANS 9206250

Vans Coaster Bus 913-9123

Cars/Vans Cheap 8203694

IT/HIACE 9130710/4333692

JB CARS CHEAP RATE
ALL KINDS OF CARS & VANS
536-2048 / 526-6288

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

L300 T7411356

L300/Vans 578-8917(Roger)

SPECIAL-CARS & VANS
Starex, Urvan, L300, REVO, Altis, Honda, Lynx, Exalta, Matic, Cars/Vans Pajero ABC-5368022/3039789

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

TOYCO Trans Coaster / Cars Vans Rental •800-6595•

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

CAR LOAN

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CAR LOAN

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

Imported Office/Household Furnitures Very Cheap Price • Vicky Kho 524-5374 •

HOME APPLIANCE

Upright Yamaha Piano • P140Th • 642-8310

PETS

3.5mos DALMATIAN 2shts+Anti-R · 4.5T 09193627402

AM Bulldog Golden Ret Siberian Husky • CallText 0917-5348096 JETDOGKENEL

•AM COCKER SPANIEL• 5MONTHS PEDIGREE 8160148

Dachshund Pup 435-4575

DOG TRAINER 09192050952

★PUGS "wrinkled"3725231

MALE BEAGLES 3 MONTHS OLD WD PAPERS P8T CALL 873-82-75

Pure-breed Shih Tsu female pups champion Line w/papers Tel. 822-3632 824-5018

SPORTING GOODS

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WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

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Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
ROLEX
5633742 5646593 09178473744

WE BUY GOLD
HIGHEST PRICE
CALL: 8390004 8390060

MISCELLANEOUS

RUSH SALE Manual / Automatic Wheelchairs Call 09178122817 09163130586

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Newly Grad C.E. Aid Jun Almelia 09185660346 4272808 / 9537002

FEMALE

CASHIER/DATA Encoder Female Single 19-24 yrs. old College Level. Pls. bring Bio-data w/NBI Clearance in person at Magdalena Pawnshop Main Office 380 Libertad St. Pasay City Tel. 832-0546

F-ESCORT • 0917-9593176

Salon Receptionist
PLEASING PERSONLITY
-GOOD PR • Tel.# 410-6997

Senior Hairdresser
-At least 5 yrs. exp. as a senior hairdresser & make up artist w/a reputable salon
-25 to 35 yrs. old
-Apply @ HEAD ZONE SALON Acropolis Unit 2 E-Center Bldg. E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Libis, Quezon City
-Resume w/ 3 character references, including 1 from previous employer
-2x2 colored picture NBI /Police clearance
Tel 395-5093 up to 94 Look 4 SHECK

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

2 Marketing Assistants M/F Pref. w/exp. Apply at 401 ACL Suites 72 13th Ave. Cubao Q.C. after 2PM only

Agent Free Training High Com 09170160250/2926137

All-Around Beautician Riverbanks Mall • 997-9035

BE A COMM'L MODEL? Call Studio 88 421-1559

CARE GIVER T5280730

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★Ofc Staff 9134470 Cholo★

★Ofc Staff 9134470 CUNETA★

★URGENT OFC STAFF ★ START ASAP 9134470 DANA★

LEGAL RESEARCHER
LAW GRADUTE
CALL 7245779/4125727

OFC STAFF 9134470 NIKKI

Pat Of Cameo needs Hairstylist M/F Call 721-4077

Wanted Qualified applicants to NEW ZEALAND for Immigration assistant or Employment search We assets your application for NZ. O/seas Qualification based on your profession. For free assessment and advice contact NZ/Philippine Gen. Srvcs. Ltd. Fax/Ph No. (02) 935-4590 Ask Mrs WARREN or Office Sec.

Wanted
Senior Law Student
for occassional work in expatriate household submit application to leasque@yahoo.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

C.Y. Lopez Pawnshop Inc. #602 JP RIZAL ST.,MAKATI CITY; #15 GEN. SANTOS AVE., LOWER BICUTAN, TAGUIG; REAL ST. ALMANZA UNO LAS PINAS CITY will hold an Auction Sale on APRIL 20, 2002 at 9:00A.M. Including all items pawned up to NOVEMBER 2001.
V.Zamora Jr. Lic. Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

BAR RESTO Shaw Blvd. 250T Call / Txt 09179934784

•Travel N Earn From Home• earn-and-travel.com 8531006 (0917)8901851

Earn From Home w/ Travel 295-2107 • 0917-8135609

Infants Kids Wear 3738821

Internet Cafe & Billiard 4 Sale Mabini 0917-4032151

JUICE DRINK MAKING BUSS. TRAINING, RAW MAT'LS. AVAIL. 2554643 2554644 2553584

LOST YOUR JOB? JOIN US EARN $400/WK MIN 5220770

Work Fr. Home w/ Travel 6376068

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late CATALINA DEGOHERMANO was extrajudicially settled to Oscar Cenizal Jr. per Doc 57, Page 30, Book III, S-2001 before Atty. Roseller Rodriguez, Capas, Tarlac.
(PDI-April 6, 13 & 20, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that an estate of the late MARCIAL DE GUZMAN has been extra-judicially settled by way of an affidavit of self-adjudication executed by his sole heir Margarita de Guzman on 04/03/02 per Doc No. 500, Page No. 100, Book No. 11 Series 2002 of Notary Public Atty Renator V. Peralta of Marikina City.
(PDI-April 13, 20&27,2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Ayala Land LTCP Cert.#B-0080585 In the name of Alfonso J. Araullo
(PDI-Mar.23, Apr.6 & 13,2002)

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen.

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
Email: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

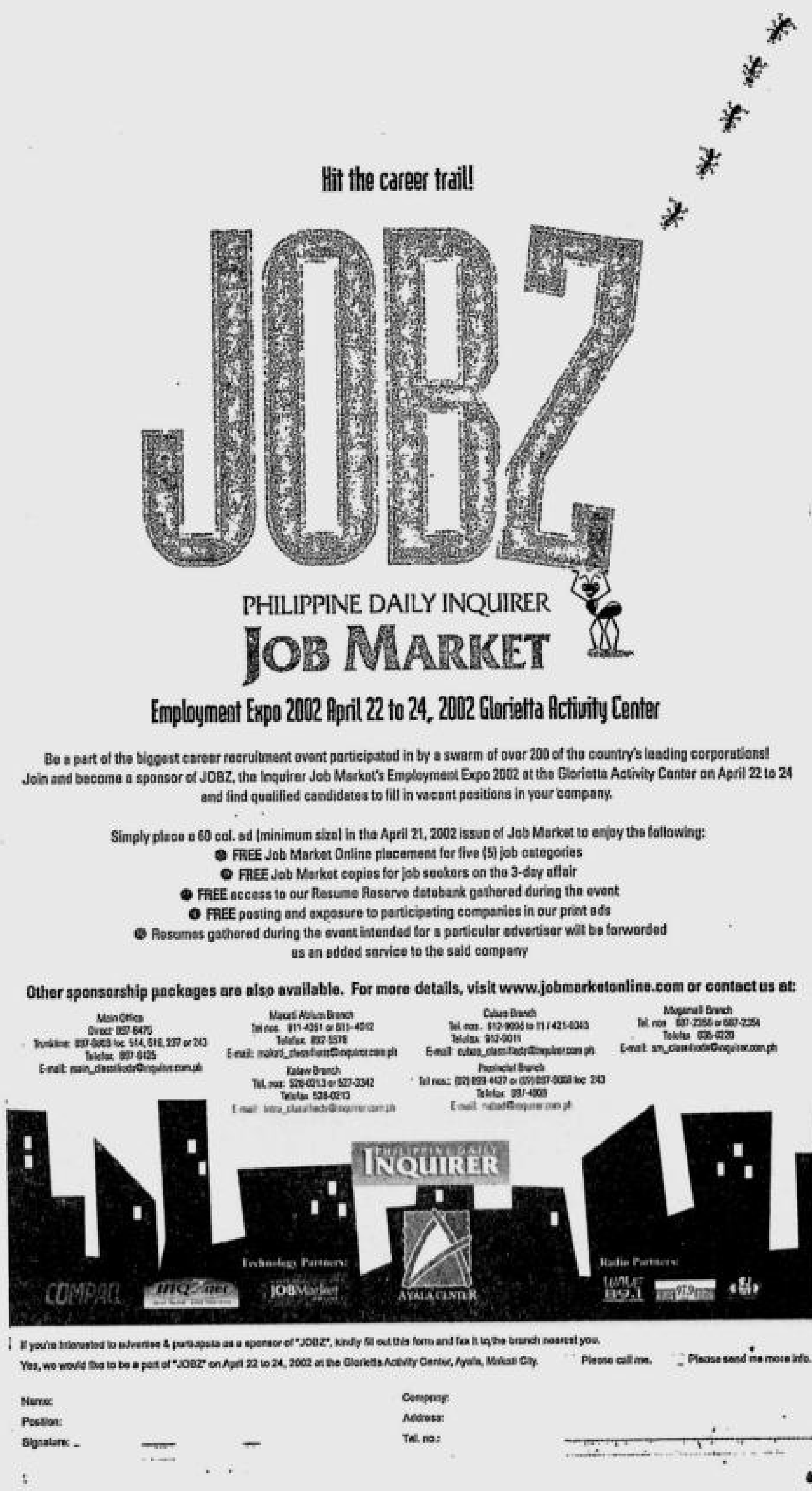
NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS Office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBERS	DATE OF DEMISE
1) Sarah Apsay	Prk. 3, Budiongan Village, Tagum City	Sebastian Apsay SS# 09-0357298-1	January 14, 2002
2) Imelda, Karen & Eric	Unknown	Ambrocio L. Badua SS# 01-0326628-8	November 27, 2001
3) Martha Meneses	No. 11 Dela Cruz Drive E.T., Olongapo City	Renato C. Bantugan SS# 02-0128669-4	January 12, 2002
4) Adelita R. Bilala	Unknown	Pio Bilala SS# 03-3339868-3	February 28, 1993
5) Concordia Lase	Unknown	Rodolfo Calacday SS# 03-1222701-8	March 13, 2001
6) Nora Caro	365 Leonardo I, Talon, Las Piñas	Dennis I. Caro SS# 03-9069601-4	September 14, 2001
7) Florencia Dela Cruz Norelyn Cayabyab	Palimbo, Camiling, Tarlac	Esmenio S. Cayabyab SS# 01-0179346-5	March 19, 1999
8) Delia Evangelio-Claudel/ Delia Evangelio-Martizano	Magsaysay, Brgy. Paklolo San Jose, Occidental Mindoro	Ernesto C. Claudel Sr. SS# 03-3354430-1	June 12, 2001
9) Ofelia Pudadero, Remigia P. Dalumpines Rebecca P. Dalumpines Renelia P. Dalumpines	La Castellana, Negros Occidental	Romeo D. Dalumpines SS# 07-0173534-4	January 27, 2000
10) Aleli de Guzman Cecile de Guzman Belen Napolis Manuel de Guzman	Unknown	Santos C. de Guzman SS# 03-1332371-7	August 30, 2001
11) Loreta D. dela Vega	Katipunan St., Malabon MM	Elizalde M. dela Vega SS# 03-2289768-7	February 23, 2001
12) Gregorio Tesorero Caroline Tesorero	c/o Quuan Bakery, Zamora St., Naga City	Evelyn C. Dy SS# 05-0143596-7	August 3, 1990
13) Mercedes C. Magsacay Emil M. Eugenio I	South Pob., Gabaldon, N.E.	Emiliano R. Eugenio SS# 03-3687553-0	January 11, 2002
14) Nuela Camangan, Kathleen & Ernesto Fruto II	Brgy. Bangyas, Calauan, Laguna	Benjamin Fruto SS# 03-2131964-5	November 28, 2000
15) Linda Galan Marlyn Galan Aida Galan	Hda Basag #1	Ernaldo C. Galan SS# 07-0657028-7	June 21, 2001
16) Lena Victorino	Unknown	Maximo Gutierrez SS# 03-3399632-8	November 28, 2001
17) Lorna Imbornal	Unknown	Servillano M. Imbornal SS# 33-0283847-2	November 17, 2001
18) Pricila, Belen, Evelyn, Aida, Manuel & Maria Victoria	#228 Salonga St., Tondo, Manila	Ernesto M. Medina SS# 04-0054781-7	April 19, 2001
19) Clarita Manalata	Unknown	Rodrigo V. Medina SS# 02-0136717-3	September 18, 2001
20) Lolita Lozano	Unknown	Jelito Nacionales SS# 03-2559872-1	August 18, 2001
21) Josefina Oliquino	825 Leyte Del St., Sampaloc, Manila	Noel Oliquino SS# 03-4042892-8	May 10, 2001
22) Rosario Vital	Tondo, Manila	Roberto B. Rico SS# 03-0814260-2	March 18, 2001
23) Evelyn V. Saluta	Caloocan City	Leonardo B. Saluta SS# 03-8163784-6	December 24, 2001
24) Angelina de Guzman	1510 Int'l. Sande, Tondo, Manila	Constancio R. Serrano SS# 03-0353370-8	July 7, 2001
25) Francisca Moldes	Bo. Bayog, Laguna	Eustaquio B. Simon SS# 03-0281659-4	March 14, 2002
26) Lordes Languido	Unknown	Joaquen M. Tayag SS# 02-0245750-3	June 8, 2000
27) Silvestre Villalon	Unknown	Shellbe T. Villalon SS# 33-2450419-5	May 1, 2001
28) Elvira B. Villarin Danilo B. Villarin	Pinbugangan, Tipanoy, Iligan City	Rodolfo M. Villarin SS# 08-0509179-3	January 9, 2002
29) Belinda Perpetua Z. Zurita	B-5 L-24 Montalban Hts. San Jose, Rodriguez, Rizal	Mamerto Zurita SS# 03-2870063-9	March 28, 2001

- NOTHING FOLLOWS -

(PDI - April 13, 2002)



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOB MARKET

Employment Expo 2002 April 22 to 24, 2002 Glorietta Activity Center

Be a part of the biggest career recruitment event participated in by a swarm of over 200 of the country's leading corporations! Join and become a sponsor of JOBZ, the Inquirer Job Market's Employment Expo 2002 at the Glorietta Activity Center on April 22 to 24 and find qualified candidates to fill in vacant positions in your company.

Simply place a 60 col. ad (minimum size) in the April 21, 2002 issue of Job Market to enjoy the following:

- FREE Job Market Online placement for five (5) job categories
- FREE Job Market copies for job seekers on the 3-day affair
- FREE access to our Resume Reserve databank gathered during the event
- FREE posting and exposure to participating companies in our print ads
- Resumes gathered during the event intended for a particular advertiser will be forwarded as an added service to the said company

Other sponsorship packages are also available. For more details, visit www.jobmarketonline.com or contact us at:

Main Office

Makati Atrium Branch

Cubao Branch

Megamall Branch

Kalaw Branch

Provincial Branch

If you're interested to advertise & participate as a sponsor of "JOBZ", kindly fill out this form and fax it to the branch nearest you.

Yes, we would like to be a part of "JOBZ" on April 22 to 24, 2002 at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala, Makati City. Please call me. Please send me more info.

Name:
Position:
Signature:
Company:
Address:
Tel. no.:

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

A prestigious Chinese Christian school is in need of:

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
- At least an MA in Education or related field
- With at least 5 yers of educational administrative experience
- Preferably a Born-Again Christian
- Strong command of English & Chinese language
- Salary negotiable

PRESCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR
- At least an MA in Education, preferably in Early Childhood Education or related field
- With at least 5 years administrative experience in the preschool setting
- Must possess the ability to initiate and implement policies and programs
- Must be an Evangelical Christian
- Salary negotiable

ENGLISH & READING TEACHERS
- Bachelor's degree in Education
- Strong command of the English language
- Preferably a Born-Again Christian
- Passed the LET Board Exam
- Salary negotiable

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- CPA preferred
- With at least one year working experience in accounting or bookkeeping
- Able to read & write in English & must be conversant in Chinese
- Computer literate
- Must be an Evangelical Christian
- Salary negotiable

Please send resumé, college transcript and most recent 2x2 picture to:

Box No. 701
Manila Post Office

City of Pasig Where People, Pride and Progress make the difference

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

THE CITY GOVERNMENT OF PASIG is inviting interested contractors to apply for eligibility and after having been found eligible/prequalified, to tender their bids for the DESIGN, FURNISHING and INSTALLATION OF ELECTRICAL WIRING FACILITIES FOR PASIG CITY'S PUBLIC MARKET at Barangay San Nicolas, Pasig City.

This invitation shall be limited to contractors currently registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board, with its principal classification as General Building and must have the expertise on Electrical Works and Mechanical Works, license CATEGORY "AA", and must also be registered as LARGE "A" for Building Structures and Industrial Plant.

Bidders/contractors who do not comply with these legal recruitments need not apply for eligibility.

The following are the schedule of Pre-Construction activities:

(1) Submission of Prequalification Statements for Eligibility **(Starting April 22, ending at 5:00 PM of April 26, 2002)**
(2) Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents **(May 2 to May 7, 2002)**
(3) Pre-Bid Conference **(10:00 AM of May 7, 2002)**
(4) Submission and Opening of Bids **(10:00 AM of May 17, 2002)**

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids, to waive defects or informalities therein or to accept such bid as may be found advantageous to the City Government of Pasig.

For more particulars and details please see the Office of the PBAC and or the Office of the Local Technical Committee at the Pasig City Hall.

APPROVED FOR PUBLICATION

(Sgd.) **SOLEDAD C. EUSEBIO**
City Mayor

(PDI – Apr. 13 & 17, 2002)

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(NORSAMELCO)
Brgy. Magsaysay, Bobon, Northern Samar
CEL No. 09173619744

INVITATION TO BID

Norsamelco invites interested bidders to bid for the supply and delivery of treated wood poles conductors and various line hardwares intended for construction of distribution lines under NEA subsidy projects.

Item A	Treated Wood Pole (Lawaan or Apitong)	
	1. 25 ft. class 3	103 pcs
	2. 30 ft. class 3	413 pcs
	3. 35 ft. class 3	108 pcs
	4. Anchor log 4 ft x 8 in dia	284 pcs
Item B	Conductors, wire and various line hardwares.	

Interested bidders are required to submit a letter of intent with latest company profile. Bid form can be secured to PBAC after the payment of one thousand pesos (P1,000.00) non-refundable. Pre-bid conference is schedule on April 15, 2002 and opening of the bid is on April 22, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at Norsamelco conference room. All bidders are required to submit bid bond in the amount of 10% of the total price.

Norsamelco has the right to reject any bid, which is disadvantageous to the coop.

(Sgd.) **HENRY C. BANJAWAN**
PBAC Chairman

(PDI--April 13, 2002)

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila
Tel. No. 527-4873, 527-4892
& 527-4880 to 82

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 02-004 (PB)

DATE OF BIDDING -- APRIL 26, 2002

0105-013-TES	2 pcs., High Speed Electric Actuator, Model EPR for EPR-REC 920 BFP-T Control System, complete with actuator Rod and Servo Valve Position Feedback Transmitter (LVDT), Differential Transformer Type Position Sensor or Servo Actuator, Type ± 125 mm, Type A (Special Design), Manufactured C.I.S. Amrein
0204-003-TES	8500 cu.m. Armour Stone, 2.5 - 3.5 tons and of (1.5 to 2.5 m in diameter). Pre-bid conference is scheduled on **April 23, 2002,** 2:00 p.m. at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/ contractors must attend the said conference.

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting **April 15, 2002** and may be secured from Administration Division during working days from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. upon payment of P25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price either in Cash, Manager's Check, Irrevocable LC, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Manager
Professional Services Department

(PDI - April 13, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Rehabilitation of Existing Sewage Treatment Plant
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services for the complete rehabilitation/ improvement of existing sewage treatment plant to include but not limited to civil, mechanical, electrical and architectural works all in accordance with the approved drawings, technical specifications, methodologies/facilities and equipment specifications of BSP. Work includes start-up and commissioning of the rehabilitated sewage plant.
Project Location : BSP - Security Plant Complex in East Avenue, Quezon City
Approved Budget : Pesos Five Million Seven Hundred Thirty Five Thousand One Hundred Thirty Two (P5,735,132.00)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License/IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Sewerage and Sewage Treatment Disposal Plant)
Contractor's Construction Experience : Has satisfactorily completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) construction rehabilitation of sewage treatment plant projects one of which costs not less than Five Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P5,500,000.00). Must have performed testing, commissioning and operation of sewage treatment plant that passes the effluent quality standard of DENR Adm. Order No. 35.
Credit Line/Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Five Hundred Seventy Three Thousand Pesos (P573,000.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : April 12 to 26, 2002; 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 to loc. 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (formerly V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : May 2, 2002; 10:00 AM
Notice of Prequalification/Predisqualification
Date and Time of Issuance : May 9, 2002; 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat, Rm. 204
Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents/ Place of Issue : Three Thousand Pesos per set (P3,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat, Rm. 204
Date and Time of Issuance : May 10, 2002, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn and 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : May 21, 2002; 10:00 AM
Venue : BMD Conference Room, 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : June 10, 2002; 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call **PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.**

Schedule of issuance of **notice of prequalification/predisqualification** up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guideline stipulated in the provisions of **PD 1594** and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules and regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI–April 13, 20 & 25, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS
PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF REBIDDING AND INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : **Renovation and Extension of the Bangko Sentral Cotabato Branch (Phase 2)**
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all testing and other operations necessary for the construction and completion of the project all in accordance with the requirements of the approved plans and specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : BSP-Cotabato Branch Sinsuat corner Quezon Avenue, Cotabato City
Approved Budget : Pesos Twenty Million Five Hundred Seven Thousand Two Hundred Two and 26/100 (P 20,507,202.26)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License / IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Building and Industrial Plant) for the past three (3) consecutive years
Contractor's Construction Experience : Has satisfactorily completed in the past three (3) years at least three (3) construction / renovation projects of similar Architectural and Engineering (A & E) works one of which costs not less than Ten Million Five Hundred Pesos (10,500,000.00) such as construction / renovation involving architectural (including finishing, plumbing, mechanical and electrical works of commercial or institutional buildings requiring medium to high end finishes and good workmanship (projects may include offices, commercial centers, educational institutions, hotels and other of similar or greater complexity to the BSP's required project).
Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Req't. : Pesos Two Million Fifty Thousand (P 2,050,000.00)
Prequalification Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : Apr. 12 to 26, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement / Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : May 2, 2002 10:00 AM
Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification
Date and Time of Issuance : May 09, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents / Place of Issuance : Five Thousand Pesos per set (P 5,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance : May 10, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : May 20, 2002 10:00 AM
Venue : BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : June 10, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call **PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.**

Schedule for issuance of notice for prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Contractors that are previously declared/considered prequalified to bid for this project are automatically considered qualified to join the rebidding and are only required to submit a letter of intent if interested to join.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of **PD 1594** and its implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification, bidding, evaluation of bids & award of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI--April 13, 20 & 25, 2002)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Shades

Q. Who invented sunglasses?

A. The first means of darkening eyeglasses was smoke tinting, which the Chinese originated before the 15th century. But these darkened lenses were not originally intended to reduce solar glare. For centuries, Chinese judges had routinely worn smoke-colored quartz lenses to conceal their eye expressions in court; their evaluation of evidence as credible or not was to remain secret until the trial's conclusion. Smoke-tinted lenses came to serve also as sunglasses, but that was never their primary function.

Name Game. Ray-Ban. In the 1930s, the US Army Air Corps commissioned the optical firm Bausch & Lomb to produce a highly effective lens that would protect pilots from the dangers of high-altitude glare. Company physicists and opticians perfected a special dark-green tint that absorbed light in the yellow band of the spectrum. They also designed a slightly drooping frame perimeter to maximally shield an aviator's eyes, which repeatedly glanced downward toward a plane's instrument panel. Pilots were issued the glasses at no charge, and the public was soon able to purchase the model that banned the sun's rays, thus the name Ray-Ban aviator sunglasses.

Ooops! Dennis Newton was on trial in 1985 for armed robbery in Oklahoma City. The prosecutor asked one of the witnesses, the supervisor of the store that had been robbed, to identify the robber. When she pointed to the defendant, Newton jumped to his feet, accused the witness of lying, and said, "I should have blown your f------ head off!" After a moment of stunned silence, he added, "If I'd been the one who was there." The jury sentenced Newton to thirty years in prison.

WORD WATCH

Mendacious (men day shuhs) : not truthful; lying; false.

PDI – April 13, 2002

OBITUARIES

In Memoriam

MARCELINO PEREZ SARMIENTO

who passed away in San Francisco, California on March 19, 2002 at the age of 83.

His children, brothers, sisters, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, children-in-law, grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The cremated remains will be buried at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque on Sunday, April 14, 2002 right after the 9 o'clock a.m. Mass at Don Bosco Hope Chapel, Pasay Road, Makati City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Teresita Yapchulay Brown

Now peacefully rests in the Infinite Grace and Goodness of the Lord on April 7, 2002.

Her bereaved husband **Raymond**; children **Lee Simon** and **Van Lucas**; parents **Emiliano** (†) & **Cipriana**; brothers and sisters **Josefina, Rustica** and **Eduardo Manuel, Necitas, Leonida, Emmanuel** and **Liza, Joaquin** and **Merlie**; nephews and nieces, other relatives and friends, request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Rizal Funeral Homes, Libertad, Pasay City.

Interment will be on April 16, 2002 at the Pasay City Municipal Cemetery (Sargento Mariano), after the 2:00 PM Mass at the Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish Church.

He loved life, Now he has life eternal...

FELIPE SUNGA YABUT

Has joined his Creator on April 10, 2002 at the age of 76.

His bereaved wife **Paciencia**; children **Reynaldo, Myrna & Teodorico**, and **Marie Rose**; grandchildren **Glen Phillip & Lesley Anne**; brother **Samson** request the caring readers to pray for his eternal peace in heaven.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Mass offered 8:00 p.m. daily.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 14, 2002, 2:30 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 1:30 p.m. Mass at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Project 4, Quezon City.

"My soul finds rest to God alone; from Him comes my Salvation."
Psalms 62:2

Luisito H. David

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on April 9, 2002 at the age of 59.

His bereaved wife **Mennen**; children **Lily, Totoy, Patrick, Bamba, Dindee** and **Carlo**; grandchildren **Lomell, Ally, Miggy, Miguel** and **Enzo**; his mother **Emilia**; sisters **Let, Linda, Viol** and **Baby**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Martin Chapel, Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 14, 2002, 8:00 AM at the Eternal Garden Memorial Park after the celebration of the requiem mass at St. Martin Chapel at 7:00 AM.

Our Dearly Beloved

JAIME C. CARIASO, M.D.

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 11, 2002 at the age of 71.

His loving wife **ELENA**; children **Gerry, Ariel, JayJay & Eric**; daughters-in-law **Janine, Bless**, and **Myrssa**; grandchildren **Kim Patrick, Felice Anne, Denise Marie, Gio**, and **Lorenzo**; brothers, sisters, brothers- and sisters-in-law **Jenny** (†), **Betty, Vicente** (†), **Fred** (†) and **Solita, Ben** and **Patring, Lily** and **Paquito, George** and **Eliza, Jun** and **Chito; Onofre** and **Pacita, George** and **Fely**, and **Mon** and **Ave**; nephews and nieces request the pious readers to say a little prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, April 14, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 4:00 p.m. Mass at the Miraculous Medal National Shrine, Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City.

We've added another dignified service to keep the memory of your departed loved ones.
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
CREMATORY SERVICES
ON CALL 24 HOURS A DAY
101 years
143 G. Araneta Avenue corner Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 749-3806 to 11 • 712-3001 • 743-6502
743-6505 • 743-6508 • Fax No.: 712-2782

PROF. JOSE DAVID LAPUZ
and **MRS. FLORA L. CARAGAY**
wish to announced that the interment
of their most beloved sister,

MRS. ADELAIDA LAPUZ HERNANDEZ

who lies in state at the Guadalupe
Loyola Memorial Chapels, will be
on Sunday morning, April 14, 2002,
after the 9:45 a.m. mass.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
Matthew 10:39

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Tels. 715-1026; 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599; 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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Rosario Dimayuga Katigbak

(Widow of **Enrique L. Katigbak**)
April 1, 1910 - April 12, 2002

Died in the Grace of our Lord
at Makati Medical Center

Her bereaved children **Tita** and **Cirilo** (†) **San Buenaventura**, **Tony** and **Chona Katigbak** and **Menchu Katigbak**; together with her grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her cremated remains will lie in state at Sanctuario de San Antonio Forbes Park at the Zobel Chapel.

Interment will be on Sunday, April 14, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. requiem Mass at the Capilla de la Virgen y de la Señor.

Please omit flowers,
Donations to Caritas Manila will be appreciated.

Scientists want bigger voice in government

By Tessa R. Salazar

Scientists are perhaps one of the most misunderstood people in the country, and Filipinos seem to have little interest in what they have to say.

Take for instance the mothballed $2.1-billion Bataan nuclear power plant. It was designed to help solve the country's nagging power shortage. It was said to be one of the most expensive nuclear power facilities in the world at the time because of its high-tech safety features.

Yet, despite assurances from the science community, the plant was never used. And Filipinos still refuse to wake up the sleeping giant, fearing it will cause more harm than good.

The issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) is another example. Filipino scientists have pushed for GMOs as a solution to food shortage, but many nongovernment organizations dismiss the scientists' declaration, choosing instead on calling GMOs "Frankenstein" foods.

Science in government

But in other countries, scientists are a respected lot.

Dr. Bruce Alberts, president of the US National Academy of Science (NAS), said during a recent roundtable discussion in Makati that the US government takes its scientists seriously, asking them for help in policy decisions.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

He said government decisions require the best scientific and technological advice so the nation's are wisely spent.

Sadly, the Philippines' National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) advisory role in government has been limited to refining bills already drafted by members of Congress.

Recently though, the NAST has become more active in giving information to the public. Its members have been discussing issues like GMOs and toxic wastes with legislators, government officials and media.

Molecular biologist Custer Deocaris, who works at the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute, said the Philippines was at the bottom of the list as far as scientific output was concerned. He said the country has a lot of linkages and input from other nations but its scientists were not producing much.

He said the government should, at the very least, give incentives to stimulate scientists to publish their work.

"We were taught in school that your worth as a scientist is measured in (terms of) publication, in your ability to share it with people so that you can contribute something to science," Deocaris said.

Despite a wealth of brilliant Filipinos, the Philippines ranks low in science and math. The brilliant people, Deocaris said, were no longer entering the field of science.

"We're losing them to other jobs," he said.

According to Science Undersecretary Fortunato dela Peña, the country is strong in the life sciences. More than 60 percent of scientists are in the life sciences, compared to physics and math.

Science education

De la Peña said the Department of Science and Technology is trying to improve science education by training science and math teachers.

The NAST, on the other hand, has been bringing science to farmers. It also started an information campaign for lay people and the youth about careers in science. Biographies of national scientists are disseminated to make people see the fulfillment of having careers in the field.

Alberts said science education teaches every child the discipline of being a rational and logical evidence-seeker. He encouraged the education department to make science the core principle in teaching.

RP, US savants push for science cooperation

THE US National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Philippine National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) agreed during a recent roundtable discussion to open communication lines, share publications and reports, and foster cooperation in science and technology.

In particular, the NAS agreed to make available in the Internet the electronic version of its journal, which contains proceedings of the academy.

The NAST, on the other hand, may identify specific publications it would like to obtain hard copies of, and its US counterpart would provide them.

The two academies also agreed to play significant scientific policy advisory roles in their countries, conduct regional workshops to exchange experiences, materials and best practices in science education, and cooperate in the development of communication skills in the science community.

Respected scientists

According to NAS president Dr. Bruce Alberts, a noted biochemist molecular biologist, the academy has at any given time about 600 volunteers working on various studies. Almost all NAS studies are requested by the US government.

Each year, the academy issues more than 200 reports. Among the more recent reports are studies on pesticides and how these affect young children, sustainable agriculture, and preventing nicotine addiction in the youth.

Alberts said the NAS analyzes problems on the basis of what the scientists know and then chooses the people in various fields will work on them.

"We're putting a very multidisciplinary people together—10, 12 or 15 of them sitting down and working on a problem (using) science and technology," he said.

Alberts said the NAS is respected by the government, the public and the media. The media, in particular, pays attention to what the scientists say.

Valuable

"The government of the United States knows we are valuable because what we put out is the best scientific advice," he said.

The NAS holds office in Washington, D.C. It is a private, nonprofit, self-perpetuating society of distinguished scholars engaged in scientific and engineering research and dedicated to promoting science and technology for general welfare.

Election to the academy is considered one of the highest honors that can be accorded a scientist or engineer. It has 1,900 members and 300 foreign associates, more than 170 of whom have won the Nobel Prize.

Tessa R. Salazar

Behind chess tournaments

(Last of two parts)

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

LAST week we discussed a query from chess enthusiast Bertito Co [bertco@edsamail.com.ph] wherein he stated that even if world-class players have good reasons to play for a draw, the games often become boring for spectators. He inquired about a mathematically satisfying scheme in allocating prizes so that the objectives of fairness, interesting games and player determination to give his all can be met.

Bernard Chan, a colleague in the Math Department who loves analyzing chess tournaments, replied that a good defense in chess is as important as a good offense, even if the former is not as exciting.

He continues with his reply below:

What I am trying to say is that there are really players whose games tend to be boring because they are defensive in nature. These players respect their opponent's attacking ability in such a way that they would rather exchange pieces and keep the positions symmetric, not because they are just playing for a draw, but more because they are better suited at symmetrical positions.

Another possible reason is that these players are very good at endgames where there are only a few pieces left to maneuver. This is their main strength and if you were this type of player, you would, of course, exchange pieces to lure the position into one that you're good at.

This is chess—and nobody should be penalized for doing this.

We cannot take that away from the player simply because some spectators find them boring and not to their liking. On the contrary, this case is actually a beauty in itself—if a person could win a game despite the limited number of pieces on the board.

I myself am interested in these kinds of games. I am more amazed at how a person could win despite having only pawns left. As a matter of fact, the champion Anatoly Karpov uses this kind of technique.

Unpopular players

The downside, of course, is that these players tend to be unpopular. More people prefer a great attack rather than a great defense. But we should remember that what makes a person a good attacker is his ability to overcome a good defensive player.

It would be unfair in the first place to fix the prizes in favor of attacking players. We cannot force a player how to play a game of chess. In an analogy to basketball, it does not matter whether a team wins by playing good offense or good defense. A win is still counted as a win (no extra credit for good offense).

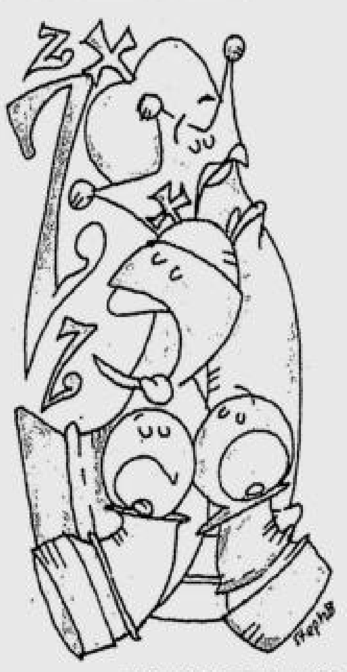


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

If a good attacking player cannot beat a good defensive player, then he cannot be awarded a point for that. Of course, there is also a price for being defensive—he rarely wins.

A good all-around player must know how to attack and defend.

Champions like Kasparov and Karpov do not always rely on good offense. They also play some games which are defensive and "boring."

In short, I don't think the prizing scheme should be adjusted to encourage attacking players. If it could be adjusted at all, what would be the criteria for determining which are "attacking and exciting" games and which are not?

Limited opening

On the other hand, if Bert really wants to see an attacking game, there are some things I can recommend.

First, hold a tournament in which players can only play a certain type of opening (i.e., the Sicilian defense) so that the first few moves of a game are forced.

Normally it is the first few opening moves that dictate the tempo of the game. That is why attacking players and defensive ones have different opening moves.

Chess players have named the more popular of these openings. For example, the Sicilian defense is an opening which has great attacking potential, and thus has become the favorite of most attacking players. If you play this opening, you are forced to attack because the position is not symmetric, and if you play defensively there is a big chance you will lose the game.

There are actually tournaments like these held in Europe. However, they are not well known due to the limited opening style of the games. In fact, some people might be bored since they would be seeing the same opening moves throughout the tournament.

No draws allowed

Second, change the rules so no draws are allowed.

The problem is if both sides have no pieces left (a draw would be obvious). Then there could be a rule that if a draw occurs, the Black pieces win. This is because White always has the first move, which is supposed to be an advantage. Rules like these would force White to attack and counterattack, if possible.

The games would be very exciting and well-fought.

This rule has actually been tried in some tournaments to avoid game fixing, but it was discovered that Black had a big advantage, having only drawing odds. They tried to give White more time on the clock, but still, every grandmaster playing in such a tournament would pray that he got Black.

To conclude, changes in the rules have actually been tried to produce exciting games. But these changes have drawbacks. If Bert is willing to live with these drawbacks, then he should probably watch the games played in these kinds of tournaments.

So ends Bernard's analysis, which I happen to agree with—even if, as I have said, I am not a chess aficionado.

What about a mathematically satisfying scenario? I have discussed this with some mathematician friends, but unless the rules are more clearly specified (especially what exactly constitutes an "exciting" game), then math will not help.

But I can safely say that Bert's question falls in the realm of what is known as game theory (which John Forbes Nash Jr. used to win his Nobel Prize in economics). There are tons of game theory sites on the Net, and one way to go about this problem would be to look through them.

Cyborgs: Not just science fiction

By Massie K. Santos
Contributor

NEWS reports that a man has had a silicon chip implanted into his arm to link his nervous system to a computer meant that cyborgs were finally real and not just science fiction.

Kevin Warwick, head of the Cybernetics Department at the University of Reading in the United Kingdom, is now officially part human, part machine.

Some people, however, have argued that there have been other cyborgs before Warwick—if one were to use the basic definition of the term cyborg: "A human who has certain physiological processes aided or controlled by mechanical or electronic devices." They say examples of these "cyborgs" are those who use prosthetic limbs or even those who rely on hearing aids.

During a two-hour operation, a three-mm square chip was inserted in Warwick's wrist and attached by more than 100 electrodes to his median nerve. The wires run under the skin and are connected to a device that sends messages to a computer through radio signals.

It is hoped that someday (within the next 10 years, Warwick believes) the technology can help victims of spinal cord injuries to once more move their limbs by bypassing damaged nerves, or help amputees feel their prosthetic limbs and possibly even control their own movements.

Human guinea pig

Warwick is no stranger to being his own guinea pig for Project Cyborg.

In 1998 he had a larger silicon chip implanted in his arm for just over a week. The chip sent signals to computers and the electric coil in the transponder reacted to nearby electrical fields, activating them as he passed by. Thus, the lights would turn on in his office, doors would open, and even computers' screens would light up when they detected his presence—without him having to lift a finger.

Yet the chip was never connected to his nervous system.

This time, Project Cyborg II is expected to last for a month. No one knows exactly what will happen to Warwick over the course of this experiment. The effects of the chip on his own brain are unknown, although experts who've worked with similar cases involving disabled people believe there should be no conflict in the wiring.

If the experiment goes well, Warwick plans to get himself a sixth sense by having an ultrasonic sensor implanted in his body to obtain the equivalent of a bat's radar.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

It seems fitting that this plan was announced just as "Spiderman" was scheduled to come out in theaters.

Eventually, Warwick's wife will be included in the experiments, receiving a silicon chip of her own to see if thought and emotion can be sent and received. Should the experiments succeed, will this spell the end of mind readers and disprove psychics once and for all? Only time will tell.

Robots and humanity

The bigger question is how mankind is affected by the reality of cyborgs.

In "Bicentennial Man," Robin Williams played a robot that spent two centuries learning how to become human. In "Artificial Intelligence: AI," the robot played by Haley Joel Osment spent the second Ice Age trapped under the Coney Island Ferris wheel asking the Blue Fairy to turn him into a real boy. Even C3PO in "Star Wars" was designed to look and behave as a human so he could better serve as a translator.

With movies and TV shows focused on the importance of humanity, it seems ironic that man himself has been trying to become more machine-like. The rapid technological advances in the past 50 years—even during the last 20 years alone—have seen man become increasingly dependent on various machines to get through daily life.

One wonders if the next step in human evolution is actually the melding of man and machine, and the resulting process of dehumanization.

Ever since Karel Capek's play "RUR," people have been trying to realize the idea of metallic human(oid)s.

Robocop, Captain Picard's turn as the Borg Locutus, and Anne McCaffrey's brainships are examples of how science fiction has presented the future melding of man and machine. Unlike the Six Million Dollar Man or the Bionic Woman, however, these characters think and behave less like humans (Locutus being the most dehumanized) and more like machines.

Less human

The question is no longer whether man has achieved cyborg status—the answer should have been obvious for several years now—but why man chooses to become less human and more machine-like.

By relying more heavily on technology, man has become less able to function socially. Behavior patterns change as machine takes over. Those who have met people who stay online 24/7 can tell you that.

In the aftermath of the World Trade Center destruction, the threat of terrorism, anthrax-infected letters and increased airport security, people have found themselves drawn together by the urge to connect, to reach out and touch somebody, as the commercial says.

E-mails have become the fastest, and safest, method of keeping in touch. Yet e-mails aren't tangible, and even if they are printed, the font is impersonal. Gone are the scents and stamps and the sometimes illegible scrawls on distinctive stationery. Spelling errors are gone, too, replaced by the perfect spelling of the computer.

The impersonalization and the process of always keeping one's self at least one step removed from the rest of the world is a disturbing trend.

All this seems to suggest that the day will soon come when the word human, and the term humanity itself, will no longer mean what they do now. Perhaps then, the movies will talk about humans wanting to be more like Data at the end of "Star Trek: The Next Generation" rather than have the android from the series premiere as the epitome of human perfection.

World-class hospital opens

By Charles E. Buban

IT SEEMS peculiar to send someone on a walking tour of a medical center. But in the case of the Asian Hospital and Medical Center, the newest institution in the country, world-class treatment, state-of-the-art medical facilities and unique architecture and design make this acute care tertiary hospital a single destination.

Located in Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang, Muntinlupa City (beside South Luzon Expressway's Filinvest exit), the 250-bed hospital sits on 17,250 sq. m of land. A 10-story hospital is connected by a sky-bridge to a seven-story medical office building that houses 145 doctors clinics and other outpatient services.

Visitors will be surprised to find a different ambience as they walk up to the lobby. It has none of that feeling one usually encounters upon entering a hospital.

The marble floors are carpeted and the ceilings and windows are high (with plenty of light streaming in). There is a grand piano, and fresh flowers abound.

In each room, there's a refreshingly uncluttered feel and you get a great view of either the Laguna de Bay or the Alabang skyline.

"Asian Hospital has been designed to reduce the stress of hospitalization for patients and their families. We took into consideration every aspect of the building and created an environment that will take care of our patients, the way we want ourselves to be treated if we were in their shoes," explains Dr. Jorge Garcia, AHMC founding chair and president for medical affairs.

ASIAN Hospital and Medical Center

User-friendly

Asian Hospital's primary objective is to create a "user-friendly" modern hospital. The facility was designed to focus on the needs of patients and their families, and the doctors and staff as well.

Every space was planned according to its usage and relationship to other services, with patient comfort and medical staff convenience as the top consideration.

While the hospital is patient-centered, it also provides the medical staff world-class facilities and equipment.

"We felt the need for a good tertiary care hospital comparable to that in the United States, the foremost authority in medical care. Despite the fact that there are many talented Filipino doctors and nurses working (in the country), we still see a lot of Filipinos going abroad, particularly to the United States, to have their medical care," said Garcia.

"And if you go to any big hospitals in the United States, you will find many Filipino doctors and nurses who are not only talented but also regarded as one of the best. One of our goals is to attract well-known Filipino doctors to come back here. We invited some of them and some are in fact now the heads of departments in the hospital," reports Garcia.

Perhaps, what these doctors were looking for were the facilities and environment that most big medical institutions abroad provide. This was exactly the challenge posed to the hospital's incorporators when they conceived the idea of the AHMC more than 10 years ago.

Building a state-of-the-art hospital is no easy task but the incorporators have proven it was not impossible.

"We were able to talk to some people who had the ability and the knowledge in getting financial backing. Initially, we got the support of many Filipino-American doctors with the help or our medical director, Dr. Rodrigo Floro, and we were able to raise most of the initial funding. Later on, medical and financial communities came in to help, through the efforts of Asian Hospital Inc. Cair Evelyn Singson," Garcia said.

International standards

With the recent accreditation by the International Organization Standards (ISO) for Hospital Operations Planning (ISO 9002), the AHMC is now moving on to a higher level of accreditation, this time under the Joint Commission on International Accreditation (JCIA).

"This body is the ultimate in hospital accreditation and that is the kind of accreditation that we're trying to get. We're hoping to develop a reputation so that even patients from neighboring countries would come here to have their medical care," says Garcia.

To complement these efforts, the hospital is also implementing some modifications in the medical staff recruitment process, which will take effect this year, to ensure the delivery of quality health care.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Are GMOs safe?

(Last of two parts)

BUT just as proponents extol the benefits of genetic modification, critics pose a number of concerns. They say the new genes inserted into a plant can alter the functioning of that plant in ways that make its food component less nutritious or more prone to carrying elevated levels of the natural poisons that many plants contain in small amounts. Or perhaps the genetically modified plant will elicit allergic reactions among people who consume them. The big issue is really safety—whether the genetically modified plant is proven completely safe for human consumption.

Substantial equivalence

Food safety is the assurance that a food will not cause harm when it is prepared or eaten according to its intended use.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the World Health Organization, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development advocate the concept of **substantial equivalence** as the most practical approach to address the safety evaluation of foods or food components derived via genetic modification.

Substantial equivalence states that if a new food or food component is found to be substantially equivalent to an existing food or food component, it can be treated in the same manner with respect to safety.

This concept embodies a science-based approach in which a genetically modified food is compared to its existing, appropriate counterpart. The substantial equivalence approach is not intended to establish absolute safety, which is simply not possible to establish for any food or for anything else, for that matter. Rather, this approach seeks to ensure that the food, and any substances that have been introduced into the food as a result of genetic modification, is as safe as its traditional counterpart that has a history of safe use.

This safety assessment follows a stepwise process, taking into account factors like identity, function, dietary exposure and nutrition, digestibility, toxicity and allergenic factors. For each product, key nutrients, as well as naturally occurring antinutrients and toxicants are studied through numerous comparisons. The studies include proximate analysis [protein, fat, ash, fiber, carbohydrates (sugar) and moisture], as well as calcium and phosphorus measurements, and amino acid and fatty acid composition.

A substantial equivalence evaluation focuses on the product rather than the process used to develop the product. If the genetically modified product is substantially equivalent to the conventional food, then it is considered as safe as the conventional counterpart. If the genetically modified food contains new traits that no longer make it substantially equivalent, such as a higher level of a vitamin, the assessment focuses on demonstrating the safety of the new trait. The new trait is then tested for its potential to cause allergic reactions, and to make sure that it is rapidly broken down by the stomach's digestive enzymes. It is important to note that the more the genetically modified product differs from its traditional counterpart, the more extensive the safety assessment will be.

In its 2000 report, the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Consultation on Foods Derived from Biotechnology concluded that "there were presently no alternative strategies that would provide better assurance of safety for genetically modified foods than the appropriate use of the concept of substantial equivalence."

Thorough testing

The consuming public views traditional foods produced through conventional breeding as safe, not because they go through any scientific safety assessment process, but because they have been safely consumed for a long period of time. What is not known to the consuming public is that these traditional foods also change in composition over time as part of natural evolution, and may thus contain numerous unique components that are not individually or collectively assessed for safety.

In contrast, generically modified products are assessed for safety before their introduction into the food market place. According to the Institute of Food Technologists' (IFT) Export Report on Biotechnology and Foods, all the existing genetically modified foods have undergone a rigorous science-based safety assessment focusing on the characteristics of the products, especially the unique components. The study concluded that, in practice, the safety assessment for genetically modified foods has been more stringent than for conventionally derived products.

In the United States for example genetically modified crops are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, the process to approve a genetically modified crop can take up to six years.

Herbicide-tolerant plants

Aside from competing with crops for water, nutrients, sunlight and space, weeds also harbor insect and disease pests, reducing crop quality and depositing weed seeds in crop harvests.

To fight weeds, farmers till the soil and/or use herbicides. But tilling exposes valuable topsoil to wind and water erosion, and has serious long-term consequences for the environment. Conventional herbicides on the other hand, can damage the crop, and thus adversely affect harvest.

To develop a herbicide-tolerant plant, scientists introduced a gene into the plant that enables it to continue growing even when a herbicide, which usually would harm it, is applied to the weeds that are competing with the plant.

A good example is soybean, considered one of the most important food crops today because its beans contain proportionally more essential amino acids than meat. As we know, soybeans are now processed and either sold whole or used as an ingredient in about 60 percent of food products, such as bread, biscuits and bakery products; cereals; soy-based milk/flavorings/ingredients; meat and vegetarian savory products, as well as confectionery.

With genetically modified soybeans farmers can now control the weeds without harming the crop. Genetically modified soybean contains a gene that is tolerant to a specific herbicide ingredient known as glyphosate. In traditional soybean varieties, glyphosate blocks the buildup of essential substances for the growth of the soybean plant, but the modified glyphosate-resistant soybean produces a new type of protein enabling it to circumvent this blocker. One of the advantages of using the glyphosate-resistant soybean is that weeds can be controlled after the young beans have started to grow, with just one herbicide. Moreover, herbicides can be applied only as needed, after weeds appear.

After a series of thorough safety assessment genetically modeled soybeans have been found to be equivalent to conventional soybeans from the perspective of safety nutritional value and processing characteristics. In 1994, the UK's Advisory Committee on Novel Foods and Processes concluded that the glyphosate- resistant soybeans and products derived from these beans are "equivalent to and as safe for human consumption as beans from conventional soybean strains and products derived from them." The regulatory authorities of Europe, the United States, Canada and Japan have also declared these genetically modified soybeans safe to eat.

Going GMO or not

It is perfectly understandable for people to be wary of things that are new, genetically modified food being one of them. It took years for consumers to accept pasteurized milk because they perceived the unknown risks from this "unnatural" process of pasteurization to be greater than the benefits. When trains were first invented, only a handful of commuters took them because of the perceived great risk. A similar thing happened with airplanes. Today, both modes of transportation are preferred because commuters believe the benefits far outweigh the risks.

Consumers have already welcomed some applications of genetic modification, particularly in medicine. Public reaction to genetically modified food, on the other hand has been mixed. This is partly due to the lack of information and understanding about genetic modification its risks and benefits, and the regulatory systems in place to assure food safety. Experts believe that in time, increased knowledge about genetically modified food will permit consumers to make informed decisions about them.

MEDICAL FILES

The case of ecstasy and the jerking lass

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

THE HYPE on methylene-dioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), commonly known as ecstasy pills among teenage barflies and club hoppers, is very much alive especially in big cities.

Ecstasy, a synthetic psychoactive drug with stimulant and hallucinogenic properties, can cause brain damage and lead to more serious complications. It can also trigger seizures or convulsions in epilepsy.

Kelly B., a 19-year-old bar hopper and ecstasy user, learned this the hard way.

One Saturday night, Kelly and her friends went to their favorite Quezon City hangout. After taking a dose of ecstasy, she poured out all her energy on the dance floor, gyrating to the tune of adrenaline-pumping, club-mixed techno-music.

After about 45 minutes of sweating and all, Kelly suddenly fell to the floor. Her hands and feet went stiff straight, her eyeballs rolled, her head turned to the right, and her whole body went into frightening convulsions.

People watched helplessly as Kelly jerked, her eyes twitching, for more than a minute. Fortunately, a young doctor was also in the disco and rushed to the hapless teenager. He rolled his handkerchief on a spoon and inserted it between Kelly's clenched teeth to prevent her from biting her tongue.

It was the first seizure for Kelly in a long while, and it made her realize that her lifestyle was actually the main trigger of her disease.

Still baffling

Even with the advancement in medical technology, epilepsy remains a complicated medical condition baffling to both doctors and researchers.

Approximately 150,000 new cases of epilepsy are diagnosed annually. Globally, there are 50 million estimated cases of epilepsy and more than three-fourths of patients receive no treatment at all.

The earliest discussion on epilepsy was during the time of ancient India in the "Charaka Samhita," the oldest existing Ayuverdic literature on medicine. Known as *apasmara*, which means "loss of consciousness," epilepsy was considered a disease in this ancient medical literature.

During the time of Hippocrates up to the Middle Ages, people with epilepsy were viewed with fear, suspicion and misunderstanding. They were socially stigmatized in almost all parts of Europe. People believed that epilepsy was a curse from God. They were treated as outcasts and punished much like lunatics and criminals.

In the 19th century, neurology emerged as a new discipline distinct from psychiatry, and the concept of epilepsy as a brain disorder became more widely accepted in the western world. Since then, the prevalent misconception that epilepsy was a "providential curse" was debunked.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

If it's any consolation, epileptics are in good company. Many prominent people with epilepsy proved that the disease was not an absolute barrier to achieving great things. Among them were Julius Caesar, Czar Peter the Great of Russia, Pope Pius IX, Russian writer Feodor Dostoevsky and English poet Lord Byron.

Cause of seizures

Epilepsy is characterized by recurrent sudden, brief seizures that occur when neurons, the nerve cells in the brain, simultaneously become activated, emitting sudden and excessive bursts of electrical energy.

This hyperactivity of neurons can occur in various locations in the brain and, depending on the location, have a wide range of effects on the sufferer. These could range from brief episodes of staring, fluttering of the eyelids or twitching of facial muscles (*petit mal*) to generalized seizures, intense turning of the head to one side, clenching of teeth and loss of consciousness (*grand mal*, or tonic-clonic seizures).

The seizures may also begin in one part of the body such as the hand or foot, and then "march up" the limb (Jacksonian seizures) as the electrical activity in the brain spreads.

Major causes of epilepsy are withdrawal from certain antianxiety or antidepressant drugs, brain tumors, scarring resulting from brain injury at birth or later in life, disorders of blood vessels, infections, diabetes or electrolyte imbalances in the blood, particularly sodium levels.

For adult patients, occupational exposure to certain chemicals can also cause epilepsy.

In the elderly, epilepsy is often due to degenerative diseases of the brain. In some cases however, the epilepsy is labeled as idiopathic if no evidence of brain damage or any other cause can be identified.

Alcohol, drugs

Among teenagers, alcohol abuse and drugs such as ecstasy and shabu and excessive doses of weight-reducing pills can trigger epileptic seizures. Aside from epileptic fits, ecstasy users face similar health risks to those using cocaine and amphetamines.

Kelly was checked by her physician for all possible causes of epilepsy, but none was identified. Her use of ecstasy pills was deemed the most likely trigger. She was placed on antiseizure drugs for a month and this was subsequently discontinued, without any recurrence of the seizure.

The number and type of drugs used to treat epilepsy are determined by various factors, which include the age of the patient and the type, frequency and cause of the seizures.

Epileptics should be very cautious in taking their drugs. Antiseizure medications interact with many other drugs, so it is very important that patients inform their physician of everything they are taking.

Psychological support

Because Kelly got hooked on a highly addictive substance, she was referred to a psychiatrist who guided her and her family. Her family and friends had been very supportive, which was considered a key factor in her recovery.

Kelly's doctor also cautioned her to refrain from activities requiring excessive exertion. She was advised to stay away from discos because the deafening noise and blinking lights might trigger seizures.

Most epileptics behave like any other person and they can live normal lives. But due to the physical strains brought about by the disease, epileptics need to adjust their habits and behaviors so as not to encourage seizures.

In Kelly's case, she had to completely withdraw from prohibited drugs. Some epileptics, who are more prone to seizures, should refrain from drinking alcoholic beverages.

It is essential that family members or close friends of an epileptic are trained on what to do if seizures occur.

The patient must be protected from a fall, clothing around the neck loosened and a pillow placed under the head. To ease breathing, an epileptic should be rolled onto one side. It is essential that the patient has someone beside him during the seizure until he has awakened completely and can walk on his own.

While people think that protecting the tongue of the patient during a seizure is a wise thing to do, this can actually do more harm. This is because the teeth may be damaged or the patient may unintentionally bite the helper as the jaw muscles contract. It is best that the patient's doctor is notified as soon as seizures occur.

(For feedback, e-mail: raffymd@i-manila.com.ph.)

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Sealants forever?

MY son's dentist recommended that she put a sealant on his teeth, but I'm not sure if this is prudent. My son, who has no cavities, is 8 and some of his permanent teeth are just starting to grow. Is a sealant permanent or does it have to be reapplied?

Elaine S.

Sealants are white fillings placed over the biting surfaces of baby molars and first permanent molars. These areas are usually very prone to decay. You can only seal a tooth that has no history of decay, so a good time to seal would be the moment teeth come out.

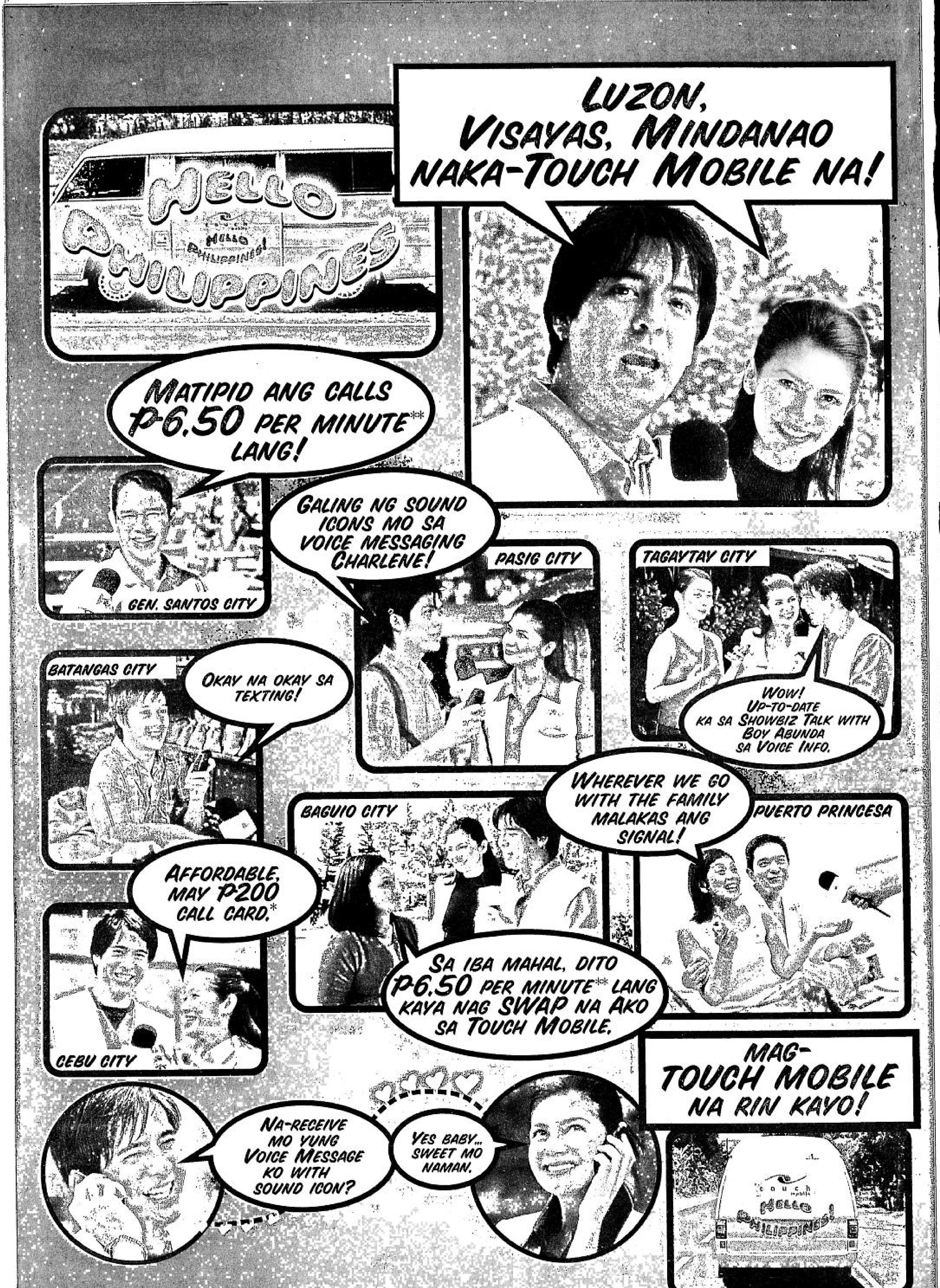
The baby molars, which come in around 2 years of age, are important to seal because their permanent replacement will be coming out at age 10-12. So we are talking about a long waiting period.

Decayed baby molars can lead to swelling and pain and can bring about sleepless nights for both the child and parents.

The first permanent molars, which come out at 6 years, are also important to seal because they are usually the first permanent teeth one loses to decay.

Since the sealant is just applied on the top of teeth, they could chip or become totally dislodged. This, however, has not decreased their popularity since the dentist constantly checks them and can repair them at the six-month recall. They may not be forever, but they help the patient keep their permanent molars forever.

(The author is a cosmetic and general dentist licensed here and in the United States. E-mail your questions to dentalqs@yahoo.com)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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre ◎ Associate Editor Edmund L. Sicam

Sean Combs sizzles in 'Monster's Ball'

By Dean Goodman

LOS ANGELES—It's an image Sean Combs' enemies can only savor.

The colorful rap mogul, also known as P. Diddy these days (having also gone by Puff Daddy or just Puffy), is strapped into an electric chair, and smoke rises from his body as he rides the lightning to the great beyond.

Fireworks

But they don't have to dream about it. They can go to their local movie theater and watch the fireworks unfold in "Monsters Ball," where Combs plays a murderer on death row.

Combs has had plenty of experience playing a bad boy in real life, but playing one on screen was a bit of a shock. Especially since his grand exit was played out in the actual chair with the actual straps and actual mask formerly used at the Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola.

Needless to say, he made quite sure that the chair was not plugged in.

"Oh my God. It was creepy," Combs, 32, told Reuters in an interview, decked out in a black T-shirt sporting the Sean John logo of his fashion empire. "You could feel the ghosts just running all over the place."

Supporting role

Combs plays the supporting role of Lawrence Musgrove, a convicted killer resigned to his fate. The film revolves around the unlikely romance between Musgrove's widow, played by Halle Berry, and his racist prison guard, played by Billy Bob Thornton.

The film won an Academy Award for Berry for best actress.

Combs' own efforts have not gone unnoticed in Hollywood, although so far he has no follow-up film planned. Instead, he continues to study with his New York acting coach and run his businesses, including his Bad Boy Entertainment record label and the Sean John fashion house.

Since opening in limited release late last year, the film is slowly appearing in more houses across the country to capitalize on word-of-mouth praise.

"Monster's Ball" presents Combs in a completely new light. In the film, he is stripped of all his glamour and even shorn of his locks, whereas in life, he is a wealthy hip-hop mogul who parties hard in the Hamptons or the Caribbean, accompanied by his manservant and a large posse of friends and bodyguards.

SEAN/p.C2

COMBS. Plays a murderer on death row.

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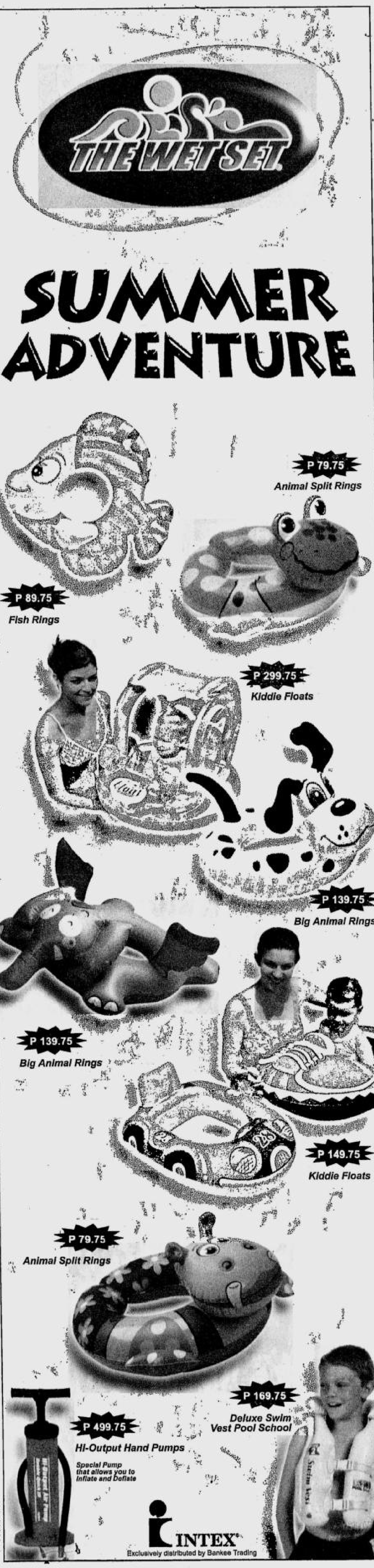


Kermit and friends get busy in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES—Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy may very well be the hardest-working celebrities in Hollywood.

The Jim Henson Co. has recently clinched deals for the famed amphibian and his porky diva companion to star in several new Muppet projects, including their first prime-time television series in more than 20 years.

New cast

Kermit and Miss Piggy will join a brand new cast of Muppet characters in a variety-show format under development at the Fox network for a debut in early 2003, the Henson Co. said on Thursday.

Fox Entertainment president Gail Berman said the series will "bring an all-new look" to the franchise created by the late puppeteer Jim Henson and first popularized two decades ago on "The Muppet Show," which ended its five-year syndicated run in 1981.

The new show will be created by Henson Television with Jennifer and Suzanne Todd, the sibling producer team behind last year's critically acclaimed thriller "Memento" and the hit "Austin Powers" movies starring Mike Myers.

News of the Fox project comes after the Henson Co. signed a deal with NBC Studios to develop a new TV movie for that network, "It's A Wonderful Muppet Christmas Movie," parodying some of the best-loved holiday films of all time.

KERMIT the Frog will star in a video "biopic" about his coming-of-age years.

Kermit, who first sprang to fame with the 1969 premiere of "Sesame Street," also will star in a made-for-video "biopic" slated for release this summer—"Kermit's Swamp Years," the story of the frog's coming-of-age years.

Music video

The Muppets also will appear with the stars of several other kids' shows in a three-minute music video, "We Are Family," airing next Monday on the Disney Channel, Nickelodeon and PBS stations to raise money for various children's funds.

Finally, Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear and other members of the Muppets gang are slated to make their NASCAR racing debut at a promotional event in July at the Chicagoland Speedway.

The busy schedule is par for the course for the Muppets, who make over 50 TV appearances a year, according to the Jim Henson Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of German-based EM.TV & Merchandising AG.

Fox is a unit of News Corp. Ltd.. NBC is a division of General Electric Co. *Reuters*

Madonna turns coy on nudity

By John Joseph

LONDON—Pop icon Madonna, happy to bare all in her raunchy videos and appear naked in her own photography book, is altogether less happy about two new oil paintings that depict her in the nude.

Unlikely venue

The McLaurin Gallery in Ayr, Scotland, is the unlikely venue for the unveiling on April 13 of the two nude Madonna portraits by Scotland's leading contemporary artist Peter Howson.

"The reaction from her camp hasn't been good," the painter told Reuters in an interview.

"I think they're frightened of what she'll think."

The Howson exhibition will be split between the McLaurin Gallery north of the English border and the more hip Flowers Central Gallery in London from April 18.

Mother-of-two Madonna is a fan and collector of Howson's work and the two have met several times, though the nudes are figments of the painter's imagination.

Howson has sent Madonna an invitation to the exhibition, but her spokesman declined to say whether the singer would attend.

Two images

For his part, Howson is no fan of Madonna's music—"my musical heroes are Bach and Mozart"—but he has spent the last 10 years working on the two images of the 43-year-old London resident, who is married to British film director Guy Ritchie.

"Nobody knows the true Madonna, not even herself," said Howson. "The thing that strikes you about her is her strength, but there is a great weakness underneath all of that."

MADONNA. Not happy about nude paintings.

The first painting depicts the singer squatting, with a small graveyard at her feet, her arms lifted skyward, her body a mass of writhing flesh.

The second image is a representation of the naked Mrs. Ritchie on a bed surrounded by five images: Mary, the mother of God; the biblical character Salome; the Jewish heroine, Esther; Eve, the first woman; and the Athenian courtesan Thais.

Howson won fame in the 1980s as one of the "New Glasgow Boys" and his paintings earned him international acclaim. During the Balkans conflict he was the official British war artist, travelling to Kosovo and Bosnia, where he came under fire.

A reformed alcoholic and drug addict, Howson has for the greater part of his 44 years lived the archetypal artist's life.

"You have to use yourself in your art, but that can be destructive and it can kill you. It's like walking a tightrope," he said. "Now I don't live the life I used to. I thought my art would get worse, but it has got better. I have more ideas and my mind is clearer, so there is more quality control."

Rehabilitation

The exhibition tracks the depths into which Howson plunged before he went into rehabilitation—an experience he describes as more "boot camp" than "trendy clinic."

His lowest point came two years ago when he was so out of control that he was unable to negotiate the three steps up to the kitchen in his flat. Now he attends church regularly.

"My life has completely turned around. I feel incredible now and I've also got my visions back which I used to have as a child," said Howson, a sufferer of Asperger's syndrome, a form of autism that manifests itself most obviously by obsessional behavior.

Despite being at the forefront of British contemporary art, Howson has little time for his conceptual contemporaries, such as Martin Creed and original bad boy of BritArt Damien Hirst.

"All this conceptual art is rubbish and those artists who do that are being irresponsible. They're putting the public off art by their stupidity.

"I would like art to be respected and deal with real things—war and poverty, things that are meaningful. Not switching a light on and off, or putting sharks in formaldehyde." *Reuters*

Sean Combs sizzles . . .

From page C1

With his penchant for fur, jewels and Cristal Champagne, as well as for recycling old rock songs with hip-hop beats, he makes an easy target. His detractors, for instance, rubbed their hands with glee when what he called "some little rock 'n' roll mishaps" over the years culminated in a high-profile 2000 trial for bribery and gun possession after a nightclub shooting the year before.

He was acquitted, but lost his girlfriend, actress Jennifer Lopez, who was involved in the melee but not charged. The TV series "Law & Order" even dramatized the event, though Combs said he has not seen it.

In person, Combs doesn't look as if he would last five minutes in prison. Slender, soft-spoken and unfailingly polite, he addresses his inquisitor as "sir."

He is God-fearing and self-deprecating. A few years ago he was up for five prizes at the American Music Awards. He lost every race, but instead of storming out of the venue like any other star would do, he faced down the press backstage and even acceded to a request to read out his acceptance speech.

This has served him in good stead for his movie career, despite his bad boy reputation. That career began last year with the crime comedy "Made." Like most actors, he has to deal with a string of rejections. He reportedly lost a gig in Oliver Stone's football drama "Any Given Sunday" because he could not throw the ball.

Pitch

Combs recalled that his pitch to the Swiss director of "Monster's Ball," Marc Forster, went something like this:

"I'm not bringing none of that superstar s—t with me. I'm not bringing my entourage, I'm here to do my work. I'm taking this very seriously. I'm here to learn. Help me. I want to be an asset. I know I can be an asset to the film. I feel like I'm the best person for this role and I want the role. I've got to have it."

Forster told Reuters that he was impressed by Combs' humility and enthusiasm during the audition, and he gave him the job not knowing about his real-life exploits.

"I don't read gossip press, so I actually had no clue that he was in a trial. I said to people that I want to cast him. People told me, 'Oh, did you know his back story?" I heard the back story then but I really wasn't aware about it before!"

Combs prepared for the role by meeting with Death Row inmates and watching documentaries. But he steered clear of fictional death row films like "The Green Mile" because, he said, "I didn't want to act like another actor."

He doesn't even have a ghoulish interest in the subject. Asked about his favorite form of execution, he gave his interviewer a shocked stare and declared, "I love life . . . I can't think like that." *Reuters*

Who should replace Rico Yan in 'Whattamen?'

By Leia Torre

THE DEATH of Rico Yan has left a void in many people's lives. At the time of his demise, he was involved in a number of projects, including his weekly show on ABS-CBN, "Whattamen." Co-starring with him were Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin, two of his closest friends.

Another story

His hosting gig on "MTB" can be taken over by the other hosts. His part in "Whattamen," however, is another story. A good, personal as well as working relationship with Dominic and Marvin will be necessary before any new combination can hope to succeed. Rico may not have been indispensable, but the fact remains that replacing him will be a touchy issue. What do the fans feel about this? Some responses:

Friendship

"Honestly, I can't see what for. Even if someone did replace him, I think it wouldn't last long. The friendship between the three (Dominic, Marvin and Rico) has to be taken into consideration. It wouldn't be easy to duplicate. Plus, it was such a deep loss for everybody concerned.

"I see the group's image shifting to its being a twosome, and becoming even more individualistic further down the road. If they insist on replacing Rico, the new guy's personality should be entirely different, to avoid unnecessary comparisons. Carlo Muñoz is a possibility. *Pero mahirap talaga.*"—***Eliss Padre, 23.***

Memory

"If the remaining guys (Marvin and Dominic) can manage, then maybe they shouldn't replace Rico. But if they can't, it would be advisable for them to wait a while because Rico's memory is still fresh in everyone's minds.

"If they do replace him, *siguro si* Onemig *na lang* because he's closer to their (Marvin's and Dominic's) age group than the other possibilities, like Cogie Domingo. He seems to be sensible enough for the job."—***Roy Jimena, 18.***

Audition

My stand is, they should go for something like "What Two Men Can Do." Or "What Two Men Want," something to that effect. Rico Yan's character should die, as he did in real life, maybe in an accident. If he really *has* to be replaced, an audition should be held—bring in new faces.

"I don't see any of the other young actors we already know filling his shoes. I think what is needed is someone with a fresh attitude and a different image, to offset the other two characters in another way. They shouldn't try to create a 'Rico Yan, the Second.' It would be unfair both to Rico and to that actor."—***Marianne Cruz, 23.***

Closeness

"The trio has gone a long way and done far too many things together, so it will not be easy to replace Rico. The closeness shared by the three is irreplaceable, as there is no one person who is exactly the same as Rico, physically, emotionally, in fact, in everything that was important in shaping him as an individual.

"If they insist on replacing him, they should wait a while before doing so, for I'm sure a lot of people would be strongly against it at first. This may cause the other two—Dominic and Marvin—to go their own way.

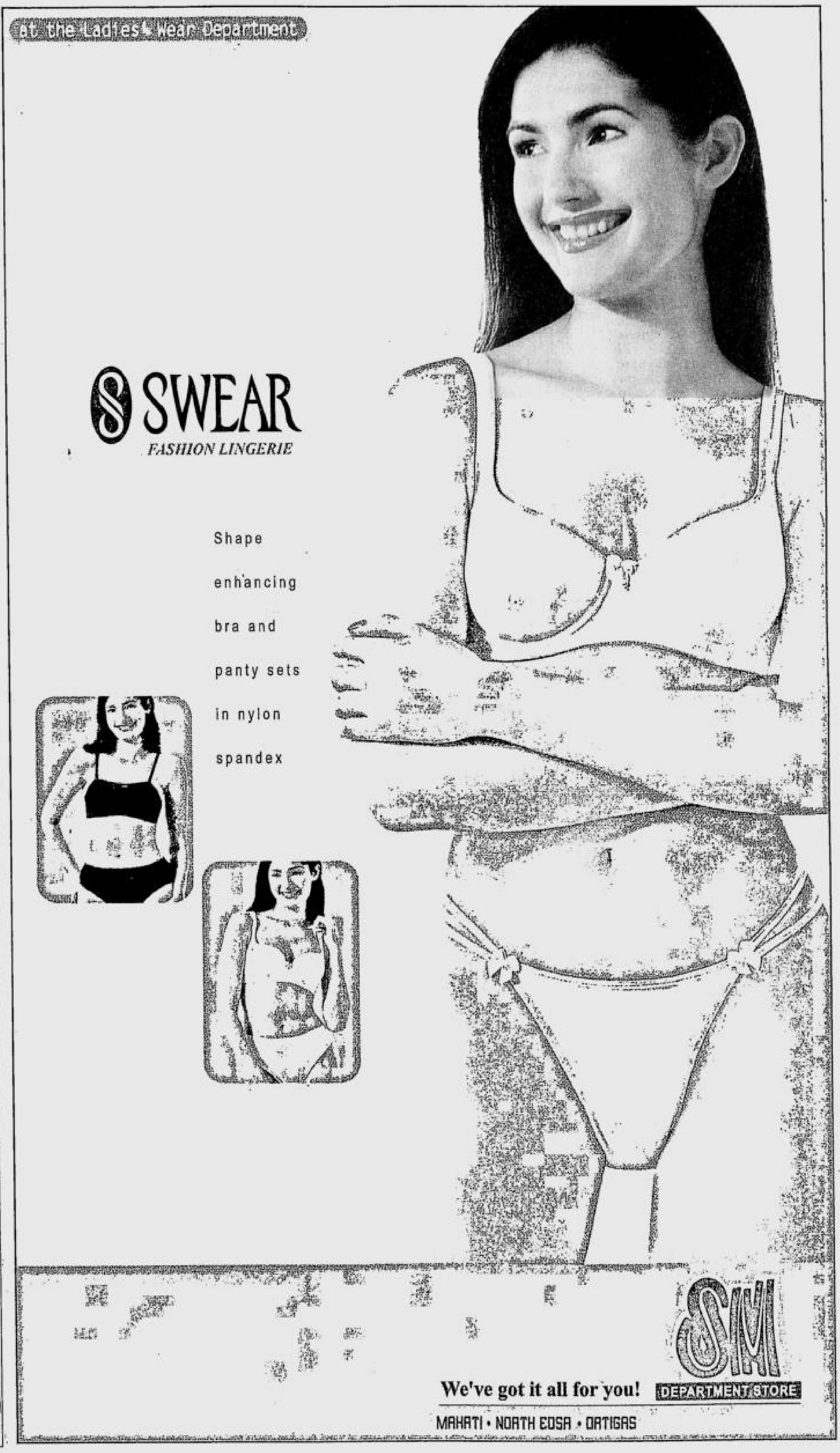
"When the time comes, I think Cogie Domingo would be the best choice. He has a different personality from Rico, and will hopefully have the same impact—his good looks, easygoing attitude, and very charming dimpled smile will help him a lot in achieving this."—***Philip Villanueva, 17.***

First consideration

"*Ang hirap talagang hanapan ng* replacement *si* Rico. First consideration is that the public's mind and sympathy are still fixed on him right now. I think they should change the character, one

WHO/ p.C4

MUÑOZ, MAPA AND DOMINGO. Some respondents cite these young actors as possible candidates to fill the slot left by Rico on his ABS-CBN sitcom.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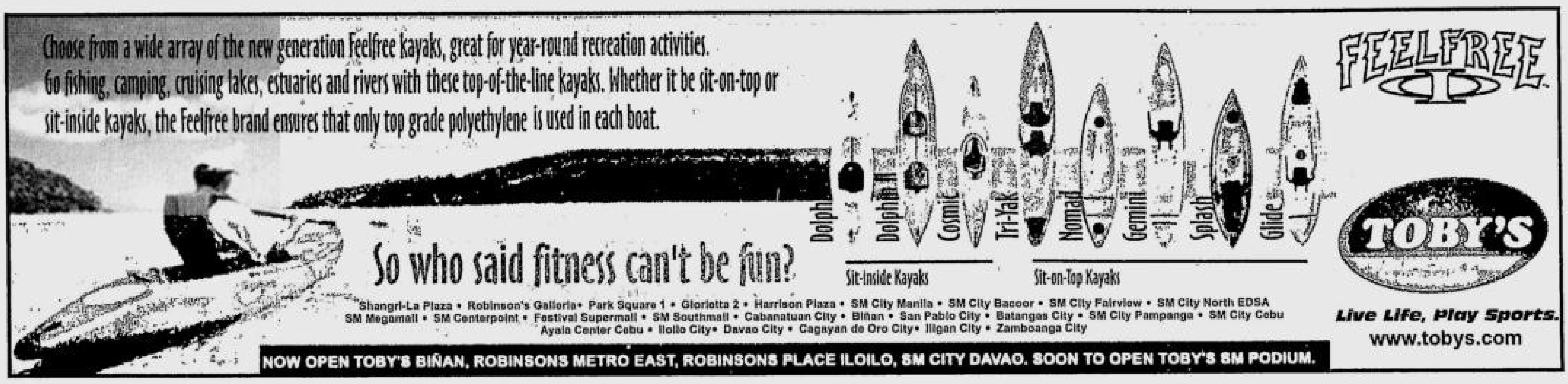
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Alexander Onassis Foundation supports deserving public-benefit endeavors all over the world

By Nestor U. Torre

ARISTOTLE Onassis (left) put up the foundation to honor his son Alexander (right), who died when he was only 25 years old.

RYAN Cayabyab receives his Onassis award in Athens, Greece.

> Approximately 2,000 scholars of the Foundation have completed their studies and are now pursuing successful careers in Greece and abroad

OUR coverage from Athens, Greece of Ryan Caybayab's victory late last year in the 2001 Onassis International Cultural Competition has elicited a number of queries about the competition itself, and on the Onassis Foundation that has funded it and other public benefit initiatives since 1975.

First, the cultural competition: It's been held every four years since 1994 in the fields of playwriting, then in 2001 for original musical score for dance and related original choreography.

Prizes

The playwriting prizes: $150,000 for first, $100,000 for second, and $75,000 for third. For original musical score, $100,000 for first, $75,000 for second, and $50,000 for third. The same cash awards go to the winners of the choreography prizes.

Eventually, the Foundation will add more prizes, for the fields of Science, Philosophy or the Fine Arts.

Now, about the Foundation itself: Its full name is the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation. The will of Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis provides for the creation and operation of the foundation, in honor of his late son Alexander, who died in an air crash at the of 25, and to support public-benefit endeavors all over the world.

Board of directors

The foundation's first board of directors was presided over by Onassis' first wife, Athina, and was composed of members including Christina Onassis and Jacqueline Onassis. Onassis bequeathed approximately half of his estate for the establishment and operation of the Foundation.

It has two separate personalities: the Business Foundation, whose goals are purely commercial, and the Public Benefit Foundation, which is dedicated to causes that redound to the general public's good.

Personal lawyer

In 1992, the Board elected Stelio Papadimitriou as President of both Foundations. He was the personal lawyer of the Onassis family, instructor of Alexander Onassis on business matters, and Executive Director of Onassis' shipping companies.

The Foundation supports scholarships awarded to Greeks for postgraduate studies outside Greece. Scholarships for doctoral studies for Greeks in Greece. Special research programs on specific subjects for implementation in Greece. Social programs for the additional training abroad of civil servants or employees of social institutions.

Scholarships

In the Fine Arts and Sports, the Foundation awards scholarships to artists for postgraduate training abroad. Domestic scholarships for youths and young athletes. Scholarships for Olympic Games medalists.

Approximately 2,000 scholars of the Foundation have completed their studies and are now pursuing successful careers in Greece and abroad.

The Foundation has also funded research grants and scholarships for foreigners, for the dissemination of the Hellenic language, culture and history abroad. More than 300 such grants have been awarded.

Hellenic studies

Another thrust is to support University Chairs dedicated to Hellenic studies outside of Greece. Plus grants of books on Hellenic culture to libraries abroad. A special library dedicated to Hellenic and Roman Art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Financial grants to galleries, hospitals, schools, churches, refugees, victims of natural disasters, environmental groups, the disabled, etc.

An important activity is the Onassis International Prize, which is awarded to an individual or organization whose service to others is characterized by a dedication to human values as conceived by Hellenic culture. Separate Prizes are for Social Achievement, Culture, and the Environment. The monetary component of each prize is $250,000.

Awardees

Awardees include Harold MacMillan, Bishop Desmond Tutu, BBC External Services, Helmut Schmidt, Agence France Presse, Amnesty International, Robert McNamara, Elizabeth Taylor, Jimmy Carter, Greenpeace International, and CNN.

As for the Cultural Competition of which Ryan Cayabyab is one of the winners, the next series of tilts will be announced soon, so prospective entrants can have enough time to work on and rework their entries, to stand a better chance of matching the achievements of previous laureates like Cayabyab.

Who

(From page C3)

way of another. But not immediately, *siguro*.

"Onemig Bondoc comes to mind as a possibility. He's one of the new matinee idols who still doesn't belong to a group, and who I can see getting along with Dominic and Marvin. Definitely, he and Rico are not the same, but I think it will work out in the long run.

"It wouldn't do to make them so similar that they would be 'uncomfortably comparable.' But the one thing they really shouldn't do is to have another actor portray Rico's character."—***Wendy Blanco, 23.***

"I'm not exactly a Rico Yan fan and I haven't watched a single 'Whattamen' episode, but I think nobody can replace Rico. It's because of the bond the three of them (Marvin, Dominic and Rico) had, which makes it harder to find a replacement for him.

"If ever the show really needs to find one, maybe Jao Mapa or Miko Palanca can take his place. I think *kaya nilang dalhin yung* character *na ginampanan ni* Rico in 'Whattamen.' They both have the charm and *kakulitan* that Rico had in spades."—***Louise Te, 20.***

> It's important that Rico's replacement should be able to get along well with Dominic and Marvin

Threesome

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WHO/P.C5

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Mickey Rooney, Andy Hardy of the movies, still going strong at 81

By Bob Thomas

WESTLAKE VILLAGE, California—He has married eight times and has seven sons, four daughters, and so many grandchildren and great-grandchildren that he's lost count. He has made millions and lost millions—to alimony, child support, the IRS and bad investments, including the horses.

Box-office king

As a teenager he became box-office king and was awarded an honorary Oscar for "bringing to the screen the spirit and personification of youth." He was given another honorary Academy Award in 1983 for a half-century "of versatility in a variety of memorable film performances."

And in 2002, Mickey Rooney continues doing what he has done for 80 years: entertaining.

Although his film and TV bookings have declined, Rooney and his wife, Jan, often travel to towns big and small to perform their show of song, dance and nostalgia.

On a recent sunshiny day, the Rooneys were enjoying some downtime ebullience.

Rooney took a seat on a cozy couch next to a big-screen TV that was showing the Sinatra version of "Ocean's Eleven" with sound turned down.

Two autobiographies

He offers to tell all—he's published two autobiographies: "i.e." in 1965, "Life Is Too Short" in 1991—and there's much to tell, considering his career started in 1922.

Born Joseph Yule Jr., he made his show-business debut as a toddler and became the star of his parents' vaudeville act. They divorced when he was 3. He and his mother continued traveling until he was 5, when they landed in Hollywood.

His many marriages provided fodder for standup comics. He wed Ava Gardner when he was MGM's most important star and she was a rising contract player. The 5-foot-3 star joked about her towering above him, and they parted after a year. But the publicity of being married to Rooney helped ignite her career. (Gardner later went on to have brief marriages with bandleader Artie Shaw and Sinatra.)

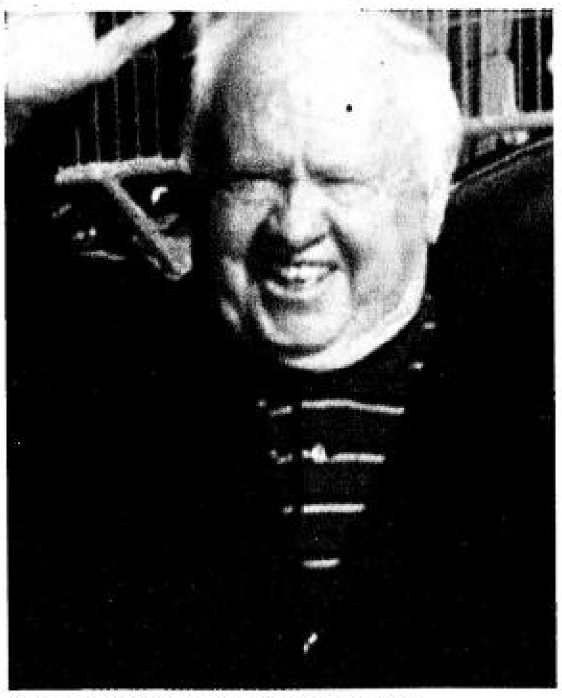
The one other actress among Rooney's wives was Martha Vickers, who had costarring roles in a few pictures in the 1940s.

Fifth wife

His fifth wife, Barbara Thomason, died in a murder-suicide. " I knew if you push it too far—if you start describing how this lavatory was that we shared, the awful stink of it and the rats coming out, and the horror of it—people would put the book down and not want to look at it again.

"People have told me they couldn't get into the book for a long time because too many babies were dying at the beginning," he said with a small laugh. "It's not a good way to start a book."

His childhood suffering was compounded by a harsh form of Catholicism inculcated by parish priests who rained down religious threats on the poor lad sitting in the pews. ***AP***


ROONEY. Made show biz debut as a toddler.

He has made millions and lost millions—to alimony, child support, the IRS and bad investments, including the horses

Barbie signs deal for second starring movie role

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—Barbie, the high fashion doll who has held some 80 jobs over more than 40 years, has signed a deal for her second straight-to-video movie, "Barbie as Rapunzel," set for release in October.

Barbie's maker, Mattel Inc., said the family-oriented home video will be released by Los Angeles-based Artisan Entertainment Inc.'s home video unit.

Santa Monica, California-based Artisan is perhaps best known as the mini-movie studio behind hit independent film "The Blair Witch Project," but don't expect Barbie to go all spooky on her fans.

Imaginative girl

Artisan and Mattel promise Barbie will play the part of Rapunzel—a maiden locked away in a castle tower in the classic fairy tale—as a courageous, imaginative girl who "magically paints her way to a life of freedom and love."

The two collaborated on last fall's "Barbie in the Nutcracker," a computer-animated movie that had Barbie in her first starring role. She also appeared in a cameo in 1999's "Toy Story 2."

Since its release, Artisan has shipped more than 3.4 million "Barbie In The Nutcracker" video and DVD units and seen 93 percent of those shipped copies sell at retail.

Like "Nutcracker" this "Barbie as Rapunzel" will be computer animated. ***Reuters***

Barbie will play the part of Rapunzel 'who magically paints her way to a life of freedom and love'

Who

(From page C4)

acter, different actor, I definitely disagree. Kasi, in the first place, who can act like Rico Yan? Say they find someone to replace him. Would his working and personal relationship with Dominic and Marvin be retained? I don't think so. The Rico-Dominic-Marvin trio cannot be maintained by simply replacing Rico with another actor. If they insist on keeping the group a threesome, I suggest they create a new character altogether. This character must have, in a way, a comparable chemistry with the other two. One of the Muñoz brothers would be a possibility.—***Charisse Pangilinan, 16.***

"I don't think anyone should replace Rico in 'Whattamen.' It would be unthinkable, for example, to replace Jim of the Apo Hiking Society, as this group is not only known for its singing but also because its members are a '*barkada*,' and have gone through a lot of things together.

"Unlike bands, whose identity is made by their music, groups such as 'Whattamen' are identified by the personalities (as well as memories) of the people who comprise them. If Rico is replaced, the fans wouldn't perceive the new group as the same one that's endeared itself to them."—***Ziggy Abella, 18.***

'If they insist on keeping the threesome, I suggest they create a new character altogether'

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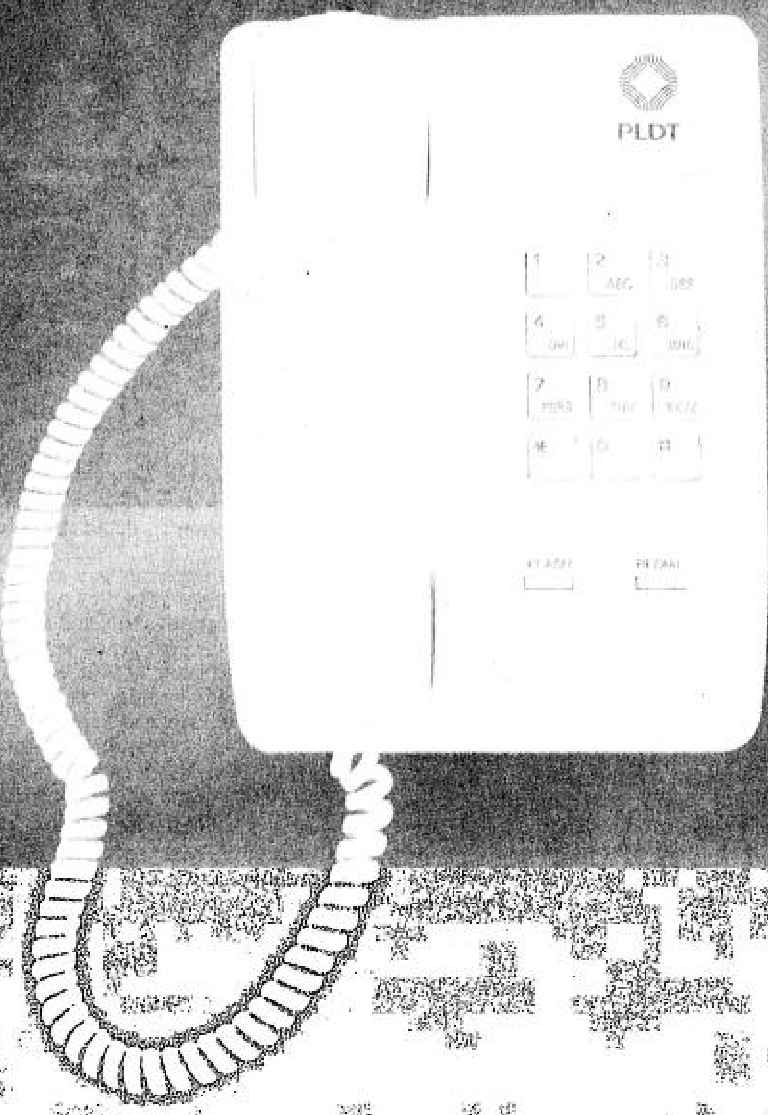

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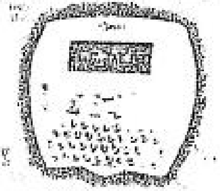

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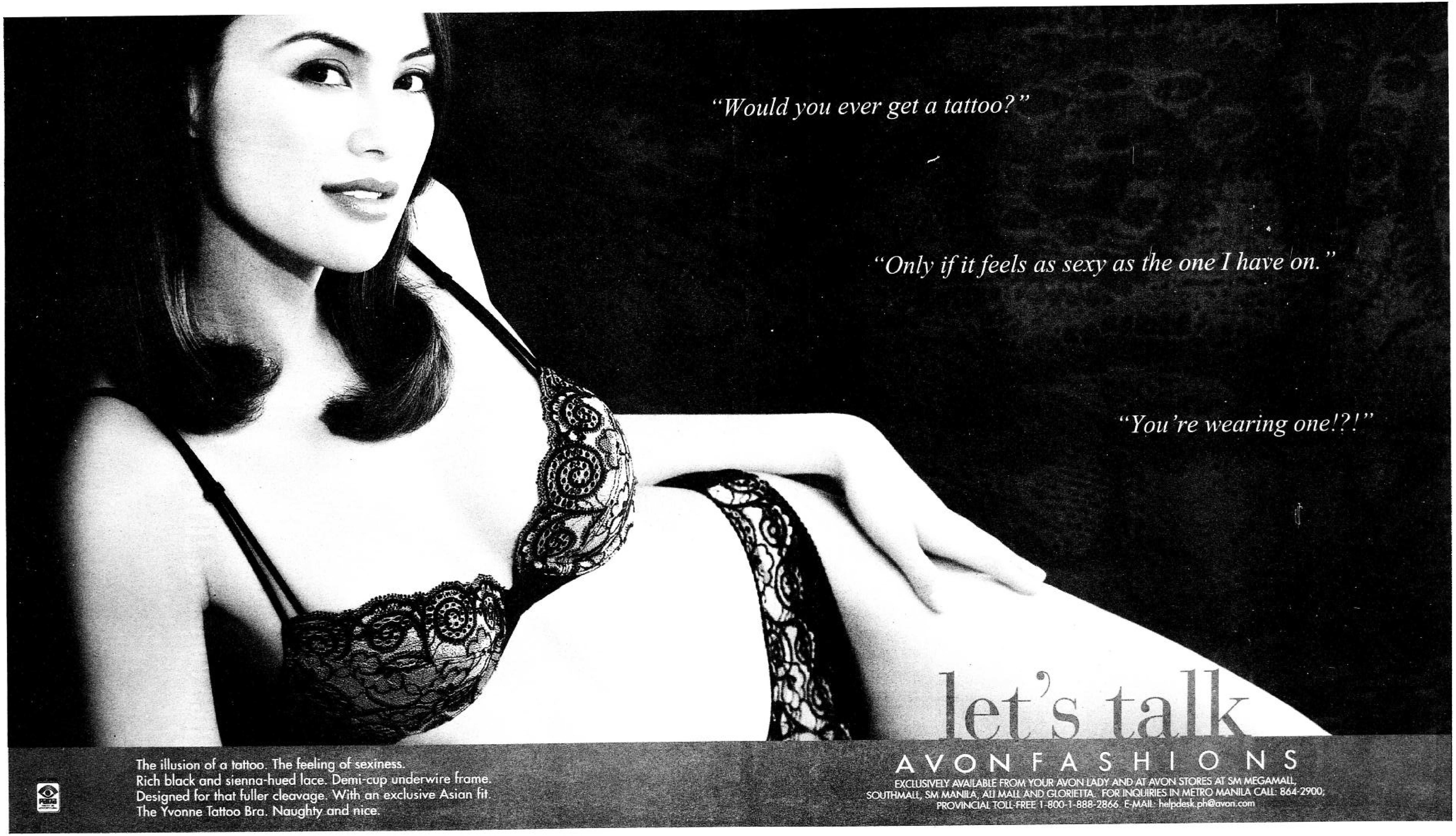
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SATURDAY Special

RUSSEL Crowe in "The Insider."

Hollywood plugs into Enron

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Hollywood's interest in the Enron scandal is heating up three months after the company's bankruptcy filing, with at least four potential movie projects about the collapse of the energy trading giant in various stages of development.

Complex tale

The burst of activity, fueled by a string of recent Enron-related book deals, promises to test studios' ability to tell a complex tale that deals with dubious accounting practices and hidden partnerships in a way that can draw a mass audience.

Film and TV producers seem determined to accomplish that by focusing on human elements of the scandal and doing what Hollywood has always done best in dramatizing real-life corruption—finding a hero.

Two of the projects have ties to another big-screen tale of industry intrigue, "The Insider," and two of them borrow a page from the environmental heroine played by Julia Roberts in "Erin Brockovich" by pitting female protagonists against a corporate Goliath.

Film rights

Talent agency International Creative Management is shopping film rights to an upcoming book about Enron whistle-blower Sherron Watkins titled "Power Failure," by journalist Mimi Swartz, according to her agents at Collins McCormack Literary Agency.

That book, recently sold to Doubleday for $500,000, examines the Enron debacle through the eyes of a leading female executive who found herself at odds with the company's male-dominated upper echelon.

Similarly, ICM brokered movie producer Scott Rudin's purchase of film rights to an Enron expose in the April issue of Vanity Fair magazine told from the perspective of Jan Avery, who was an accountant at Enron for eight years, an ICM spokesman said, confirming a report in Daily Variety.

The author of the Avery article, Marie Brenner, also wrote the Vanity Fair story that became the basis for the "The Insider," which starred Russell Crowe as a tobacco industry whistle-blower courted by CBS' "60 Minutes."

Television producer Robert Greenwald, whose credits include last year's Marilyn Monroe mini-series "Blonde" and 2000's "The Audrey Hepburn Story," is taking a different tack with a two-hour Enron movie he is developing for the CBS network.

His film, tentatively titled "The Crooked E," will be based on the experiences of a young, "entry-level" manager, Brian Cruver, whose memoir of his nine months at Enron, "Anatomy of Greed," is due out from Avalon this spring.

Greed and presumption

"His is the downstairs looking at the upstairs," Greenwald told Reuters. "He looked at all this greed and presumption and he has a marvelous sense of humor and perspective . . . His personal stories are just amazing, of what it was like to work and live in that culture."

A CBS spokeswoman said the Greenwald project, if it gets made, would likely air sometime next season.

In another film project linked to "The Insider," former "60 Minutes" producer Lowell Bergman, who was played by Al Pacino in the movie, was enlisted last month as a consultant for an Enron TV movie being developed by the FX cable channel and Artisan Television.

Recent films about corporate corruption have had mixed success at the box office.

"The Insider," while earning critical plaudits and seven Oscar nominations, did poorly at the box office and sparked considerable debate about the accuracy of events it portrayed. "Erin Brockovich," which garnered a best-actress Oscar for Roberts, was one of the highest-grossing films of 2000.

CBS is a unit of Viacom Inc. *Reuters*

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"OFF SEASON." Making the Yuletide spirit a year-long miracle.

Unusual sequence of events

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

MOVIES about Santa Claus are usually shown at Christmas, but "Off Season" aims to make the Yuletide spirit a year-long miracle.

In the TV movie, which premieres on the Hallmark Channel on Sunday, April 14 at 9 p.m., an unusual sequence of events takes place in a town in Florida. An old man with a mysterious past shows up at a decrepit hotel—and miracles start to happen.

A special beneficiary of the miracles is a young orphan, Jackson (Rory Culkin), who lives with his aunt (Golden Globe nominee Sherilyn Fenn), an aspiring lounge singer.

The old man, intriguingly named Sam Clausner (Emmy winner Hume Cronyn) claims to be a traveling salesman, but Jackson suspects he's more special than that. His hunch is confirmed when Sam makes one of his "impossible" wishes come true.

"Off Season" will be replayed at 9 p.m. on April 15, 27 and 28. The Hallmark Channel is seen on Sky Cable's Channel 38, Home Cable's Channel 25, Destiny Cable's Channel 25, and PCC and Cable Boss affiliates.

Cocoy's concert

Cocoy Laurel, who's won plaudits for his performances abroad as The Engineet in "Miss Saigon," goes back to the local concert stage with "Journeys Of My Heart" on April 26 at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

The concert chronicles Cocoy's progress as an artist. Included in the repertoire are "Traveling Boy," songs from the Big Band era-like "Once Upon A Time," "So In Love," and "I've Never Been in Love Before," and numbers in which Cocoy performs with the Madrigal Singers, Powerdance, and a string ensemble.

We've worked with Cocoy before, and regard him as a sensitive performing artist who is also a complete professional. He has a happy attitude about performing that endears him to audiences who are tired of the cynicism and sarcasm that some other singers affect in order to be "in" and "now."

LAUREL. Happy attitude.

We hope that Cocoy includes some Spanish numbers in his line-up of songs, as well as "Dahil sa Isang Bulaklak," which he sings to specifically impressive effect.

Finally, we trust that, after his April 26 concert, Cocoy will no longer make himself scarce on the local stage, and come out in Filipino musicals, to share what he's learned abroad with the hometown audience.

44th Grammy awards on ABC-5

At 9 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, ABC-5 will telecast the second half of the 44th Grammy awards. Hosted by Jon Stewart of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," the awards show features performance numbers by the recording industry's hottest talents.

A signature touch in this year's Grammys was the novel teaming-up of artists in unusual combinations: Tony Bennett and Billy Joel did a duet; India-Arie joined Brian McKnight, Al Green and Hezekiah Walker in an inspirational segment; and "Lady Marmalade" legend Patti La Belle and Christina Aguilera, Pink, Li'l Kim, Missy Elliot and Mya did a group number.

Towards the end of the show, a duet by Elton John and Eminem got a standing ovation.

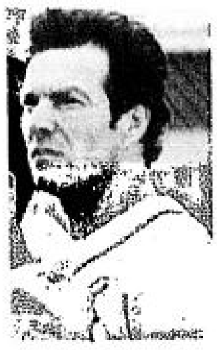
'The Rookie' tops US box office

DENNIS Quaid pitched a solid first inning with his new baseball drama "The Rookie" which grossed an estimated $15.8M in its opening weekend (March 29-31). Disney's uplifting G-rated film hit the mound in 2,511 stadiums and average a brawny $6,283 per theater.

Baseball saga

The movie showed that Quaid, one of the most underrated Hollywood actors, could finally outmuscle his ex-wife Meg Ryan at the box office by himself. The true-to-life baseball saga debuted stronger than Ryan's last three films—"Kate & Leopold" ($9.7M), "Proof of Life" ($10.2M), and "Hanging Up" ($13.6M). Quaid's last film with a lead role, 2000's "Frequency," was a spring sleeper hit arriving with $9M and reaching five times its opening with a $45M domestic take. Plus roles in the ensemble hits "Traffic" and "Any Given Sunday" have helped make Dennis Quaid come a long way since "Jaws 3-D."

"The Rookie" received outstanding "excellent" rating scores resulting in a 89 percent highly favorable rating versus an industry average of 60 percent-65 percent. Those polled by CinemaScope agreed and gave it an A grade.



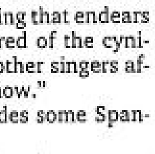
QUAID. Underrated.

True story

From the studio that brought audiences "Remember The Titans" comes a motion picture based on a true story about a coach who discovers that it's never too late for dreams to come true in "The Rookie." Quaid stars as real-life hero Jim Morris, a high school chemistry teacher and baseball coach who, on a bet with his team, finds his major league dreams within reach once more. The movie also features Rachel Griffiths, Brian Cox and Jay Hernandez. Director is John Lee Hancock written by Mike Rich.

Big winners at a potluck dinner

WORD OF MOUTH



Sandy Daza

POTLUCK dinners are always enjoyable. I look forward to such gatherings because, not only do you get laughter but there is always a dish or two that will make an impact on my continuous search for something new and delicious.

Frustrating

Our badminton group at Valle Verde Country Club confuses me. I have never really made up my mind whether we exercise to be able to eat a lot, or the other way around. When not dining out, we are in our friends' homes talking about other people . . . and the way they play—and of course sampling the dishes that each one of us is so proud of. The sad part about these dinners is that, when I discover something worth sharing with our readers, it is frustrating because most of those who whip up their family specialties don't sell them to the public. These people don't know they have a gold mine in their hands!

Last month, we had another such dinner. There were about six dishes and four desserts on the table. And to be polite to everyone who brought food, they were all good. Really! But among all the NBA players, there is always a Michael Jordan and a Kobe. In this meal, they were the traditional *kare kare* and the *dinuguan*.

Master cook

Let me describe the *kare kare* first. It's made by the family of Atty. Ben Arcinas. The master cook is Violy. Brought by daughter-in-law Anali. I have tried this one before and it is not only superb, it is also consistent. Consistency is the mark of a good cook. The dish had very tender morsels of ox tail, and nice and crunchy vegetables, and the sauce is thick, sticky and just oozes with the smell of peanuts. Her *bagoong* is also a winner.

This is the most delicious *kare kare* I have ever experienced. I hope Mang Ben reads this article and gets my obvious hint when we see each other.

The other winner was a thick *dinuguan* with very tender chunks of pork. Truly terrific! The dish was a contribution of our champion player, Liliana Disini. I believe her mother in law, Dra. Inday Disini, makes this. I have also tried her *rellenong manok* which she makes with the Chinese Hok Shu Ham, and this is also a topic to converse about!

Phone call

Among the desserts, the lime cheesecake was the big winner. Contributed by the owner of the house, this may be experienced through a phone call. This one was made with your usual graham base, a bit powdery, which I thought was nice, and a light but most delicious filling. Not too sweet, not too heavy, just right! Excellent! This I took home and I had to exercise more because of it!

All these three dishes created a craving in all those present and like, I say, I don't think their creators realize they have gold mines waiting to be discovered.

With this group's passion for eating, I think it wise that all of us decided to get into a sport to support our love for food.

Happy eating!

Lime Cheesecake, created by Jordana Camposano: call tel. 925-2172.

San Pedro and Celerio deserve better tributes on TV

By Nestor U. Torre

FINALLY, it's the turn of the recently departed National Artists Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio to be given their due by our TV channels. The week before, everyone was completely, astigmatically fixated on Rico Yan's demise, so the national artists' even more important leavetaking was given short shrift, or even completely ignored.

SAN PEDRO AND CELERIO. Taken for granted by younger audiences.

Contributions

Well, better late than never (but just barely), our television stations are coming up with tributes and brief bio pieces on San Pedro and Celerio. Thus, viewers are starting to realize and appreciate the contributions they have made, and to rue the loss that their departure, only a few days apart from each other, has meant to our nation's cultural life.

But our channels' best efforts in this regard are shaping up to only something like five percent of the time and trouble they spent on Rico Yan. So, cultural tokenism is still operative here.

We hope that TV executives acquire a genuine understanding of the importance to the country of outstanding cultural workers like Celerio and San Pedro, so that their tributes can became truly meaningful and insightful.

Extra work

What would this transformation of attitudes require? Well, to begin with, a lot more work! It's far easier to drum up grief and admiration for a young actor than for two old artists. We fear that our TV stations do not have the personnel who are prepared to do the extra work, or indeed have the aptitude and artistry for it.

If so, TV executives should get help from outside, from non-TV people who are more knowledgeable about the cultural scene, and of the two recently departed national artists' major contributions to it.

With these additional inputs, TV stations should each come up with separate one-hour documentaries on San Pedro and Celerio, and air them during primetime, *not* during the graveyard shift. These substantial documentaries would go a long way in making viewers realize the importance of art and artists in their lives.

Boringly nominal

We also wish that TV tributes to the two national artists would go far, far beyond the usual, facile enumeration of their accomplishments, which is so boringly nominal and awesomely uninteresting. The stress should not be on lists, but on the dynamism of the artists' vision and contributions.

Since both San Pedro and Celerio worked in the field of music, TV should also present concerts of their best works, with top stars performing and interpreting them. These concerts would show that many of the artists' works were quite popular and very accessible, thus making the important point that the arts are not abstract or obscure, but are in fact part of the warp and woof of everyday life *and* of our noblest aspirations.

We also trust that the time will come (as soon as possible!) that TV tributes won't stop at the "Levi Celerio got into the Guinness Book of World Records by playing music on a leaf" level that we see so often on television. That's *so* kneejerk and facile, and he did much more than that.

Master lyricist

Let's focus on Celerio as a master lyricist, not a novelty act. As lyricist, he penned words that brightly, blithely captured the mind and heart of the Filipino. His songs were popular not only because they were truly beautiful, but because they sang about *us* in all our variety, and even our contradictions.

In life, both San Pedro and Celerio were taken for granted by younger audiences—to our young people's (clueless) loss. Television has the important function of making young viewers realize how much they've lost in this regard—and the need for them to treat other living artists less cavalierly from here on in. Let's hope that our TV people are up to the challenge of that crucial task.

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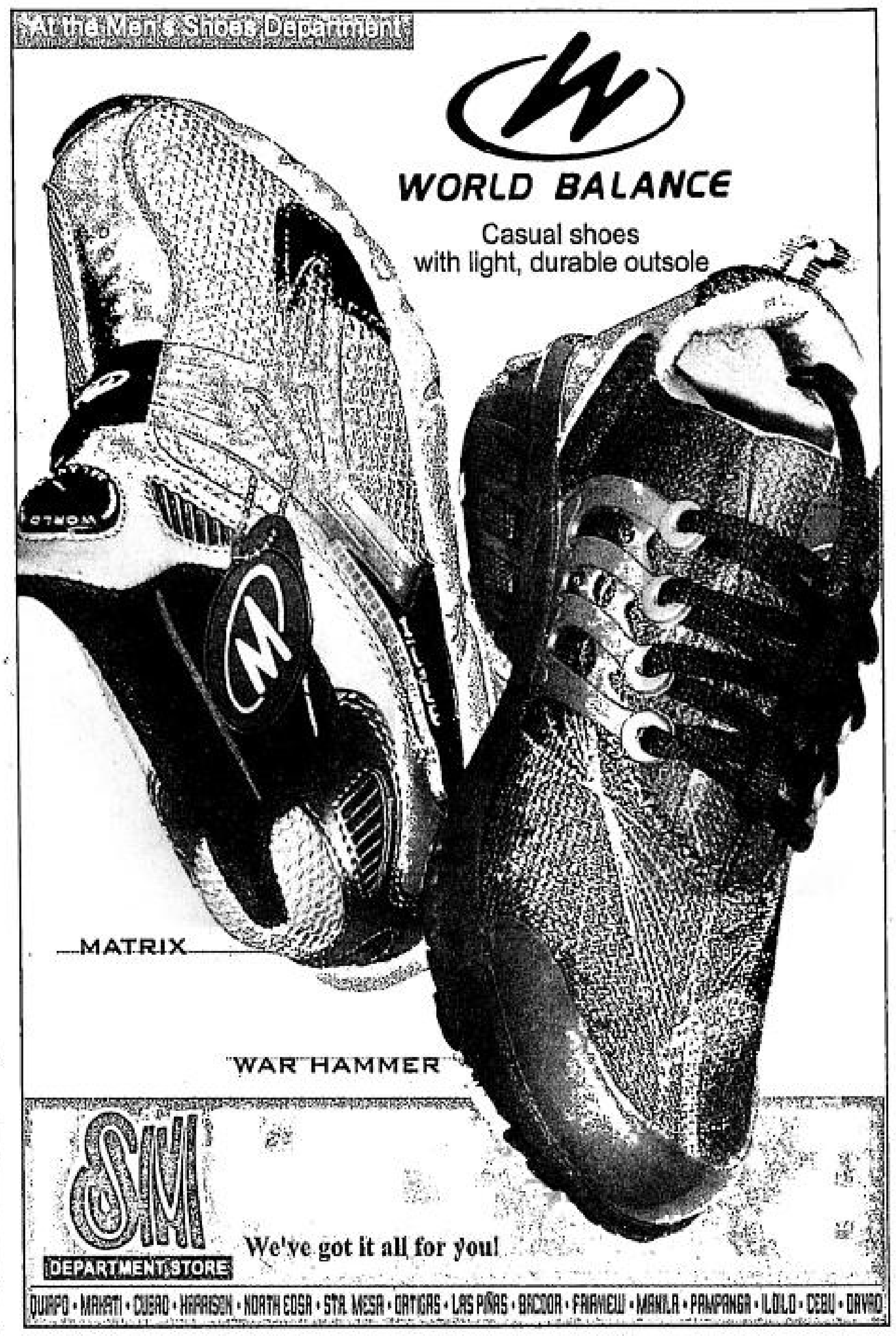

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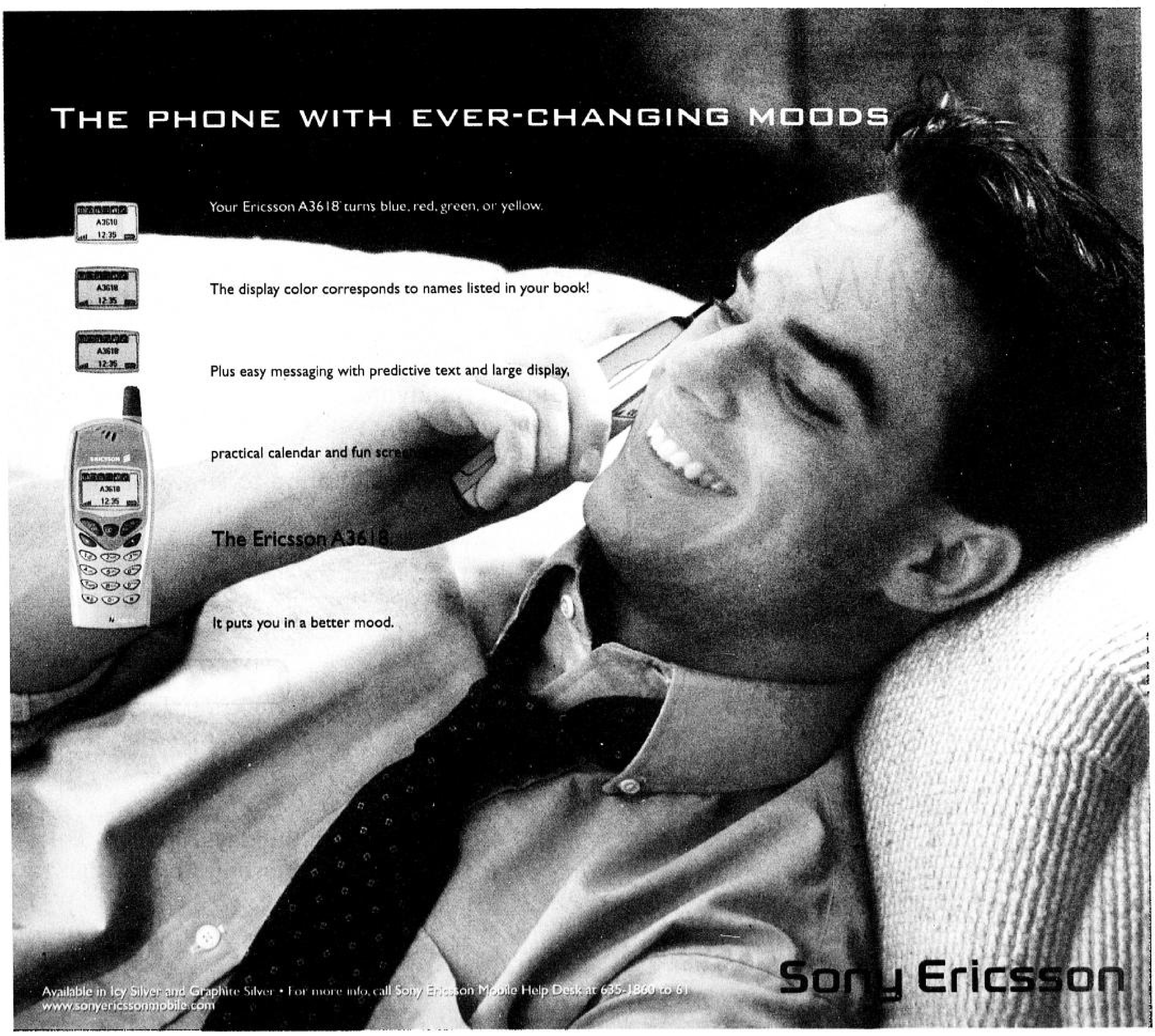

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BARDOT. One of many French actresses who enchanted Hollywood.

The foreign factor in Hollywood stresses European, Hispanic influences

By Behn Cervantes

(Conclusion)

HOLLYWOOD had consistently dealt with the past and present woes of the Irish, Italians and other Middle Europeans of America. It was easy enough since the decision makers, not to mention the writers, were ambitious and aggressive migrants from those areas. Of course, after World War I, Hollywood made the rest of us painfully experience the awful Holocaust the Jews all over Europe suffered under Nazi Germany. To this day, the world is regularly made to remember those horrific conditions as well as the persecution the Jews suffered, be they Anne Frank's family or the nameless victims who were gassed in prison camps in many parts of Europe.

Suave lovers

The French enchanted Hollywood early on. In the arena of *l'amour*, who could compete with the likes of Maurice Chevalier, Charles Boyer or Louis Jourdan as suave lovers? Yes, they had that peculiar accent but in Hollywood this was deemed chic. The French damsels were not doing too badly themselves, as epitomized by gamin but very talented Claudette Colbert and, for a short spell Martine Carol, Brigitte Bardot, Jeanne Morreau, Simone Signoret and the ethereal Catherine Deneuve. Colbert had already garnered an Oscar for "It Happened One Night." Simone Signoret followed suit and captured an Oscar for "Room At The Top" in a role that was a far cry from the Bardot mold.

Germany was ably represented by director Emil Jannings, Billy Wilder, Otto Preminger and sex icon Marlene Dietrich. There was the enigmatic Oskar Werner who distinguished himself in various films, especially "Ship of Fools." Mousy Peter Lorre gave the "bad" guy a touch of sympathetic weakness by portraying neurotic villains.

Reputation

Maximillian Schell came two decades later but romped away with an Academy Award for "Judgement at Nuremberg." His entry in Hollywood was facilitated by the reputation of his sister Maria, a successful actress in Germany and Europe. However, Maria didn't succeed in Hollywood as well as Maximillian did, although she starred as Grushenka in "Brothers Karamazov," sex icon Marilyn Monroe's dream role when she fancied herself a serious actress.

Austria contributed Paul Henreid, two-time Academy winner Louise Rainier and the ultra-beautiful Hedy Lamar. With ethereal Greta Garb around did the Swedes need to contribute anyone else? Well, not until Ingrid Bergman came along. Her incandescent screen presence taught the world the meaning of icy sex appeal.

She gathered three Academy Award statuettes during her controversial career in Hollywood that included the sensational scandal in the late '40s when she carried Roberto Rossellini's child sans marriage. In fact, *sans* divorce, since she was still married to Dr. Peter Lindstrom when the tempestuous love affair took place while filming "Stromboli" on that volcanic isle off Sicily. Her conduct shocked the cinematic world. After all, didn't she appear in the title role in "Joan of Arc," a film she made not long before she opted to reinvent herself for Italian *cinema verite?* She had tired of Hollywood's cinematic menu.

Critical success

Viveca Lindfors was around as a possible substitute, but never became a big star although she starred with Errol Flynn in "Don Juan." Ingmar Bergman was a critical success as a director in Scandinavia but his star, Liv Ulmann, who flew to Hollywood was too plain, too glum and too boring by Hollywood standards. Instead, his other star Max Von Sydow became a regular supporting actor of some distinction in many Hollywood epics, even convincingly cruel as a villain in action films starring the likes of Bruce Willis.

In the mid-'50s, Hollywood was mesmerized by Italian directors, actors and stories, so Roberto Rossellini, Vitorrio de Sica, Antonioni, Federico Fellini and Franco Zefferelli became household names along their stars Anna Magnani, Silvanna Mangano, Pier Angeli, Gina Lollobrigida and Sophia Loren. Vittorio Gassman and Rossano Brazzi did the Italian lover boy bit but it was Marcello Mastroianni who was most successful in that romantic genre, although he did so in his good, old *Italia* in films like "La Dolce Vita" and those delicious sex-comedies like "Marriage Italian Style," and "Divorce Italian Style" in which he co-starred with La Sophia under the direction of De Sica!

Faithful audience

The British had already come, were seen and indeed certainly had conquered Hollywood. They cultivated a faithful audience, won scores of awards and gained a position of respect in the movie capital. After all, aren't Charlie Chaplin, Laurence Olivier, Vivien Leigh, Greer Garson, David Niven, Deborah Kerr and Cary Grant among the pillars of the American movie industry? The British industry continued churning its own brand of cinematic entertainment and art, while continuing to supply Hollywood with fresh talents and certified artists like Paul Scoffield, Vanessa and Lyn Redgrave, Maggie Smith, Peter O'Toole, Peter Finch, Judi Dench, Hugh Grant, Emma Thompson, Kenneth Brannagh and many more, like Leslie Howard, Claude Rains, Sir Cedric Hardwicke, Wendy Hiller, and Dirk Bogarde, who had set the sound stage for them.

In the past decade, fine actors like Mel Gibson, Nicole Kidman and Cate Blanchett have included the Down Under equation in the Hollywood scene. Their position seems secure now judging from their popularity, the awards they have garnered and the influence they wield in the playing field.

Peripheral characters

The Asian actors in Hollywood still have to make a big mark. Fine actors like Sesue Hayakawa were certainly around but they seemed destined to play peripheral characters. Asians mattered little in American life, at least as far as Hollywood was concerned. They were hardly represented in films unless they were cast as butlers, houseboys, gardeners, or as those inscrutable Easterners with thin hanging moustaches and suspicious-looking slit eyes.

At most, they were represented by the likes of amusing Charlie Chan or worse, the evil doctor Fu Man Chu. These quickly made Asians all the more dubious, indeed.

The Pacific War did little to help matters.

The Chinese were relegated to the Charlie Chan stereotype, the grim-faced driver or the giggling gardener. However, they were often seen as victims of evil emperors or war-mongering Japanese. The Second World War tainted the Japanese for decades. They were viewed as evil Asian warriors out to grab territory, rape and slay innocents while they mindlessly paid homage to their god-like Emperor.

Notion

Otherwise, they were obedient geishas or toothy characters, often comic. Mickey Rooney's silly stereotypical portrayal of Holly Golightly's surly Japanese neighbor in "Breakfast At Tiffany's" says it all. Miyoshi Umeki's Academy Award winning performance in "Sayonara" further strengthened the notion that Asian women were mere geishas. The

THE FOREIGN/ p.D7

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The foreign factor in Hollywood stresses European, Hispanic influences

From page D6

character is not dissimilar from Cio Cio San who kills herself when her American lover leaves her for the good, old United States with an Amerasian-in-the-making as a live reminder of the torrid but tragic love affair.

However, time made the warring Japanese more human. Sesue Hayakwaka injected his Japanese officer in "Bridge Over River Kwai" with depth and a pained heart. However, he failed to grab an Academy Award, although Alec Guinness' award-winning performance was founded on the acute dramatic rapport provided by Hayakawa. "A Teahouse On the August Moon" had Marlon Brando aping a Japanese. Why, even 6'4" John Wayne played a Genghis Kahn.

Eurasians started to alert Hollywood on the merits of authentic Asians, so beautiful France Nuyen and Nancy Kwan started winning fine movie roles. Nisei James Shigeta was busy starring in some big Hollywood films for a spell. However, the Asian fever was short-lived. Very soon, Asian actors slid back to playing funny butlers in films like "Auntie Mame" or deadly villains in "B" action flicks meant for drive-in theaters.

In the recent restaging of the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "Flower Drum Song" that originally starred Miyoshi Umeki on Broadway and Nancy Kwan in Hollywood, the libretto was rewritten by "M Butterfly" playwright David Hwang to better capture the genuine Chinese spirit. Perceptions are indeed a-changing place in the United States among Asian Americans.

Asian market

It took blackbelter Bruce Lee to make Hollywood producers sit up and recognize the Asian market, as well as its special brand of talent, albeit merely in the martial arts genre in the beginning. Lee awakened US producers to the profitable Asian market in America, the many Chinatowns all over the world and most especially in Asia, the biggest and most populous continent of them all. Bruce Lee died unexpectedly and ended what could have been a spectacular career. However, like Rudolf Valentino, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and James Dean, Bruce Lee "lives" on with a cult following long after his death.

Because Lee proved to Hollywood producers that there was money to be made in the Asian market by Oriental actors, the last decade has entered Hongkong superstar Jackie Chan in Movielandia's dollar-making elite circle. Chow Yun Fat, Jet Lee and the successful director Ang Lee who crossed borders after artfully megging "The Wedding Banquet" to directing the English classic "Sense and Sensibility" starring Emma Thompson.

Action films

Last year, "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon" affirmed this Taiwanese's position as one of the best and most commercial international directors. In the meantime, Hongkong directors, recognized for their "zip and zap" kind of action films, have been "imported" by the likes of Tom Cruise for "Mission Impossible 2." Writers like Amy Tan and Maxine Hong Kingston provide much-needed stories that view Asians in America and the world from the correct Asian perspective.

The Philippines was one of the first film industries set up in Asia. In fact, its film industry is a mere decade younger than that of Hollywood. In the '50s, countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and even Taiwan and, yes Hongkong, looked to National Artists Lamberto Avellana and Gerry de Leon as role models. They invited them over to their countries and tried to get the necessary technical know-how from Philippine studio heads like Manny de Leon, Dr. Jose Perez and Cirio Santiago.

Philippine presence in Hollywood was practically nil although Pancho Magalona (as Enrique Magalona Jr.) appeared in "The Hook," a Hollywood film starring Kirk Doughlas. However, he portrayed a Korean POW in that 1963 anti-war statement by George Seaton. I doubt that such casting would be allowed these days, with the availability of Korean actors for such a role.

International productions

Some Filipinos have appeared in Hollywood films, like Barbara Perez in "No Man Is An Island" with Jeffrey Hunter. No one has moved over to Hollywood to try their luck there after Tetchie Agbayani, who did manage to appear in at least three international productions.

Otherwise, the Filipino presence in Hollywood has merely been the Filipino *mestizos* like Rob Schneider, Lou Diamond Philips, Tia Carrere and Phoebe Cates. Lea Salonga, our most successful export has, so far only been a singing presence in films, although those animated films were blockbusters. On television, she portrayed still another Vietnamese girl. She has yet to portray a Filipina in a foreign production.

The International Cinema is manifestly very dynamic these days. Europe continues to set trends, Russia is reawakening and repositioning itself in international cinematic circles. It is no different in Asia. Japan continues to make fine films that make critics and audiences sit up and applaud.

Greater respect

China is gaining greater respect, their contemporary films setting trends, even if they cause big ripples in their strict homeland. Wartorn Iran has produced critically exciting films that are admired for their simple stories about human needs. Indonesia produces small but meaningful films. Even Thailand has come up a few surprises. Tiny Nepal in the Himalayas has produced a couple of films of great merit.

The Philippines is lagging behind although the late Lino Brocka had already alerted film festivals around Europe, especially Cannes and Berlin, to various creative artists in the Philippines like Mike de Leon and Ishmael Bernal. Decades before him, Manuel Conde Jr. stunned the Venice Film Festival audience with his "Genghis Khan."

Hollywood has to look to the East. It will need to open new windows, view fresh horizons and imbibe unfamiliar insights. More realistically, it has to recognize the potential of the very rich Asian market. Despite Rudyard Kipling's morose statement that the twain shall never meet, Hollywood has partially opened its doors must and take notice of the rest of the cinematic world.

Point of view

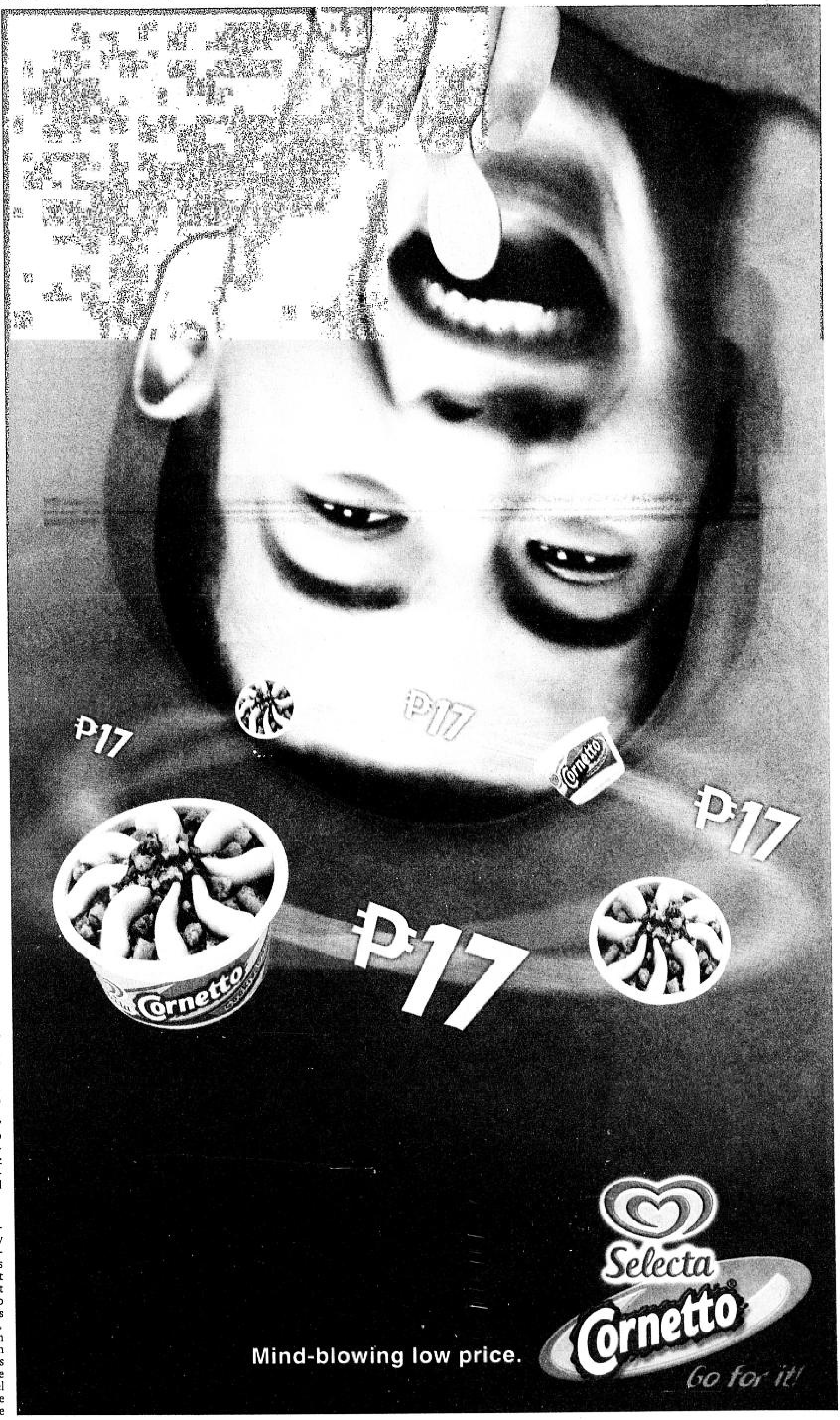
Asian migrants now make up a significant part of the US. When Asian-American artists script and direct their lives from their point of view, Hollywood will search for able Asian actors to authentically portray the characters in those movies.

Successful representation of Asians is inevitable but the feat will require work. It will need determination and vision. Asians must create their cinematic soul, they must dramatize their angst. These can only be enacted by their kind. No more the talented Paul Muni or Louise Rainier making like Chinese peasants in "The Good Earth" or even the principled Marlon Brando portraying an Okinawan in "Teahouse of the August Moon," or the vibrant Susan Hayward playing Mongol John Wayne's Asian love interest in "Genghis Kahn."

They were very talented actors and Academy Award winners, but have we any doubt that Asian actors could have portrayed their roles with greater justice, ease and realism? Asians must portray Asians. It makes sense.

The talented Oriental actors will take their place at Hollywood's sumptuous table. They will rightfully seat themselves amongst the other nationalities of the United States. Yes, among the English, French, Italians, Greeks, German, Irish, Scandinavians, Middle Easteners and the Hispanics. Along with the likes of Hattie MacDaniel, Sidney Poitier, Whoopi Goldberg, Cuba Gooding Jr., Halle Berry and Denzel Washington!

PEREZ. Starred in a Hollywood production, "No Man Is An Island."



Oprah to hang up microphone after 2005-2006 season

By Doug Young

LOS ANGELES—Oprah Winfrey, who became one of television's highest-paid personalities with her wildly popular daytime talk show, will hang up her microphone after the 2005-2006 season, a show spokeswoman said on Monday.

Winfrey has signed a two-year extension to her current contract that will keep "The Oprah Winfrey Show" on the air in national syndication for four more years after this season, said a spokeswoman for Harpo Productions, maker of the show.

After that, the woman who earned an estimated $150 million in 2000 according to Forbes magazine will end a daytime run that has lasted nearly 20 years, the spokeswoman said.

Winfrey, whose net worth Forbes has put at about $800 million, did not release any statement about her decision. King World Productions, the Viacom Inc. unit that distributes the show, also had no comment.

The woman whose name has become practically synonymous with daytime television talk shows began her broadcasting career in Nashville, Tennessee, then moved to Baltimore before taking up residence at her current base in Chicago.

After arriving in Chicago, she hosted the morning talk show "A.M. Chicago" on ABC affiliate WLS-TV, which quickly became the top show in its time period and was renamed "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in 1985. It debuted in national syndication in September 1986.

Since making a name for herself on television, Oprah has gone on to appear in a number of movies, including "The Color Purple" and "Beloved." On television, she also appeared on the well-known "coming out" episode of ABC's "Ellen," starring Ellen DeGeneres.

Her other publishing and media ventures include "O, The Oprah Magazine," her Oprah's Book Club and her "Oprah Winfrey Presents" series of made-for-television movies that included the Emmy Award-winning "Tuesdays with Morrie."

Serious demeanor

While not the first woman with a daytime talk show, Winfrey helped pioneer the genre with her serious demeanor and her thoughtful way of tackling issues, said Matt Roush, a senior editor with TV Guide.

"What distinguishes Oprah is the fact that she has been able to do this sort of television without having to stoop and pander, and the fact that she seems to focus on the emotional side of things, the spiritual side of things," Roush said. "She is the one person operating in that realm that sees it as a calling."

Roush said that Oprah has also distinguished herself by her deep connection with her viewers, which has landed her consistently at the top of the daytime television ratings.

In the current season, her show has attracted an average of 7.2 million viewers per episode, beating out the second-ranked show, "Live with Regis & Kelly," by 35 percent. "Oprah" is said to generate about $300 million each year for King World, and is seen on 280 stations in the United States and in more than 100 countries worldwide.

WINFREY. Deep connection with her viewers.

"Oprah going off the air clearly will be a major moment in television," Roush said. "She's just so popular. She's become such an icon, whereas some of these other talk shows are more distractions."

Sally Jessy bids farewell

In that "other" category, talk show host Sally Jessy Raphael said separately on Monday that she will also hang up her mike at the end of the current season.

"The Sally Jessy Raphael Show" now appears on 190 US television stations, and has been on the air for nearly 20 years, making it the longest-running talk show now airing on daytime television, according to show producer Studios USA Domestic Television, a unit of USA Networks Inc.

"I've been proud of many of the shows we've produced over the last two decades," Raphael said in a statement announcing her decision. "It was my personal statement about the issues facing society and the moral choices that people make. It has been important to me to tackle topics that are meaningful and in good taste."

Her statement did not say why she chose to end her run with the current season. *Reuters*

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Give in before it's gone

Judge satisfied with Robert Downey's progress

The actor will resume his film career next month, when he begins shooting 'The Singing Detective' for Mel Gibson's production company

By Ed Newton

INDIO, Calif.—A judge recently told Robert Downey Jr. he was pleased with the actor's progress in drug rehabilitation as Downey prepares to restart a film career derailed by his high-profile battle with addiction.

Drug charges

Downey, who has been arrested twice on drug charges since his release from prison in August 2000, appeared before Riverside County Superior Court Judge Randall White for a brief hearing to review a status report prepared by the actor's probation officers.

The judge expressed satisfaction with the report, which Downey's lawyers and prosecutors said showed the actor had remained drug-free and in compliance with the treatment program he entered last spring following his most recent arrest.

White ordered the actor to return to court for another review on July 19, at which time the judge may dismiss charges Downey pleaded no contest to last year and lift his probation.

"I'm pleased to see that you're doing well," the judge told Downey. "I hope it (drug rehab) continues to be of some benefit to you. I'll see you back here on July 19."

DOWNEY. Drug-free, working, and staying out of trouble.

Downey, who turns 37 next month, responded, "Thank you." Appearing in court wearing a purple sharkskin suit, white shirt and striped tie, he said nothing else during the proceedings, or on his way into or out of the courtroom.

Lawyer

Afterward, his lawyer, James Epstein, told reporters his client was "going full-bore" with his acting career. As has been widely reported, he said Downey is due next month to begin shooting a film for Mel Gibson's production company, "The Singing Detective," adapted from a BBC TV mini-series.

The film marks Downey's first acting role since he was placed on probation last July and ordered to remain in drug rehab for cocaine possession. It also will be his first feature film project since ending a year-long prison stay in August 2000 on a previous drug conviction. His last big-screen role was in "Wonder Boys" with Michael Douglas.

Asked what has made the difference in Downey's latest round of drug treatment, Epstein said, "It's hard to say. He's more mature, more ready to accept help."

Deputy District Attorney Tamara Capone said the probation report showed Downey was "complying with the program. He's drug-free, he's working and he seems to be staying out of trouble."

Probation

Downey was sentenced in January to three years of probation and ordered to remain in a live-in drug rehab program for at least a year after he pleaded no contest to felony cocaine possession and a misdemeanor count of being under the influence of a controlled substance.

Those charges stemmed from a November 2000 arrest in Palm Springs that came just three months after he was released from prison on a prior drug conviction. Downey was arrested again in the Los Angeles suburb of Culver City, but prosecutors in that case declined to file charges.

Fallout from those arrests cut short an earlier career comeback by Downey, who received an Oscar nomination for his 1992 film role in "Chaplin." He most recently had a recurring role on the popular Fox television series "Ally McBeal" that earned him a Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards. *Reuters*

Studios start Digital Cinema venture

Effort will be funded with equal contributions from the seven Hollywood majors

By Bob Tourtellotte

LOS ANGELES—In what could prove to be a milestone for digital moviemaking, Hollywood's seven major film studios on Tuesday said they will start a venture to set open technology standards for Digital Cinema.

Contributions

The venture's name and management will be announced in coming weeks, but a spokeswoman said the effort will be funded with equal contributions by each of the studios: Disney, 20th Century Fox, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Paramount Pictures, Sony Pictures Entertainment, Universal Studios and Warner Bros.

Digital Cinema experts outside the studios called the effort a positive move in the still undeveloped arena for Digital Cinema, which can offer consumers better quality movies and reduce operating costs for studios and theaters.

"We must have a global standard for digital filmmaking that is as useful as 35mm film," said Charles S. Swartz, executive director and chief executive of the Entertainment Technology Center (ETC) at the University of Southern California.

"The only way to do that is to jumpstart the marketplace and have the industry agree on open standards," Swartz said. The ETC was established to analyze the impact of digital technology on the entertainment industry.

Fears

Executives from large companies like Eastman Kodak Co. and Texas Instruments Inc. to small digital production houses like Los Angeles-based The Orphanage said the move should allay the fears of movie makers and theater owners worried that they might spend hundreds of thousands of dollars to buy digital equipment only to find it obsolete in just a few months.

"It's definitely a large step forward for digital systems," said Bob Mayson, general manager at Kodak Digital Cinema.

Early last month, Kodak showed its first entry into the Digital Cinema marketplace at the theater exhibition industry's ShoWest convention in Las Vegas.

But many large companies including Boeing Co., Texas Instruments, and Qualcomm Inc. have been pushing competing digital distribution systems, projection technologies and business models for as long as five years, in some cases.

Independent filmmakers working on shoe-string budgets, too, have been moving forward, making movies with inexpensive digital cameras and other equipment. Yet, when it comes to distributing the films to movie theaters, the indies must use expensive processes to convert their digital movies to film.

Standards

"The sooner we get standards the studios accept, the sooner it's going to make it a reality to help us make digital pictures or help people who make the pictures," said Scott Stewart, co-founder of The Orphanage.

For the most part, all their efforts have been hampered because companies that make anything from expensive movie cameras to color mastering equipment have been making products that, in some cases, use incompatible technologies.

The same problem existed with the adoption of digital sound technology, and movie theater owners had to install two or three different systems to handle digital sound. One Digital Cinema system can cost a theater $150,000 per screen.

Standards wars, too, are bogging down the adoption of new high-definition (digital) television in the United States.

By banding together, the studios hope to steer product manufacturers toward an open set of standards, thereby making it less expensive for industry players to adopt Digital Cinema. After early wrangling, the studios came together on competing DVD standards, and DVD has proven to be a huge moneymaker.

"The good news is that all the major seven have joined, which means you wouldn't have a couple of other studios releasing on a competing standard," said Brooke Williams, manager of marketing and field demonstrations for Texas Instrument's DLP Cinema.

Disney is a unit of The Walt Disney Co., Fox is a unit of News Corp. Ltd. Paramount is part of Viacom Inc., Sony Pictures is a unit of Sony Corp., Universal is part of Vivendi Universal, Warner Bros. is owned by AOL Time Warner Inc., and Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc. is its own entity. *Reuters*

Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick leave 'The Producers' to cheers from theatergoers

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—After nearly a year's run, Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick have left "The Producers," turning over the starring roles in Broadway's biggest hit in years to English actor Henry Goodman and television star Steven Weber.

Sold out

The Mel Brooks musical, based on his 1968 film about two rapscallion Broadway producers who bilk investors out of their money by putting on a musical about Adolf Hitler, won't have to worry about sagging ticket sales. The show, which won a record 12 Tony Awards last June, is pretty much sold out for months to come.

The enthusiastic crowd at the last matinee, which included Broderick's wife Sarah Jessica Parker, began standing and cheering even before the final curtain came down. After a teary Lane and Broderick took their bows, Brooks and director-choreographer Susan Stroman

NATHAN LANE/ P. E2

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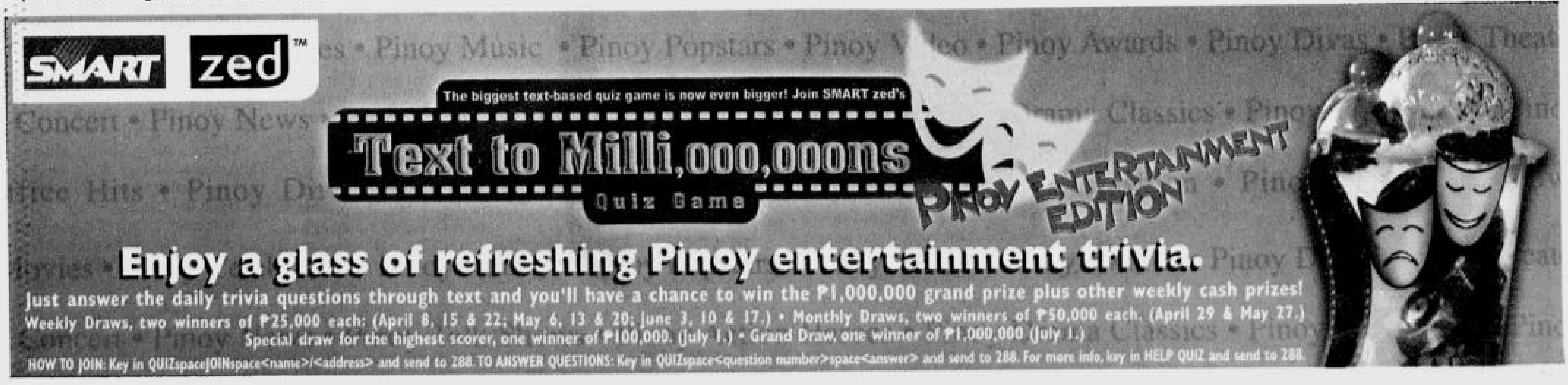
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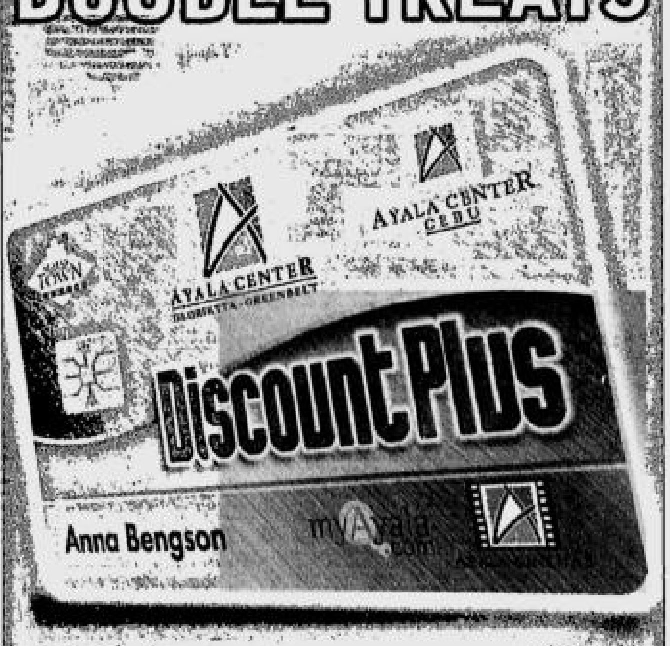

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SWITCHING CHANNELS

Richard Gomez moves to GMA-7

By Edmund L. Sicam

RICHARD Gomez, who has been an ABS-CBN mainstay since 1986 with top-rated shows like "Palibhasa Lalake," "Richard Loves Lucy" and recently, "Your Honor" is moving over to GMA-7 to co-host "S Files" with Paolo Bediones and Janice de Belen and star in a yet unnamed primetime soap.

At a presscon, Richard admitted that it was a difficult decision to make. Since his "Your Honor" was taken off the air, he had been trying to meet with the top executives of ABS-CBN to plot out his future in the network. However, the meetings would always be moved. In the meantime, his manager Douglas Quijano had been talking to GMA-7 to find out options for his ward.

Goma said he prayed for a sign to help him make a decision. When he was unable to sit down with ABS-CBN's top man Freddie Garcia, he decided to sign a contract with GMA. More on this development next week.

Goma's hosting starts tomorrow when Paolo Bediones takes a seven-week leave to host "TXTRS 5," a new game show on GMA in cooperation with Globe Handyphone. "TXTRS 5" premieres tomorrow April 14 at 8 p.m., right after "K."

In the launching episode, stars of "SOP" and "Bubble Gang" will take part in the physical and mental challenges of "TXTRS 5." Studio contestant winners can win as much as P 1 million. Viewers can win 5 BMWs and P 5 million with exciting texting games.

Monching and Tonton as motor car racers

Actor-brothers Tonton Gutierrez and Ramon Christopher will see action in the motor racing event, SVI Racing Circuit, which hits the road today and tomorrow at Subic. They will also join the Philippine Touring Car and Philippine Junior Car at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

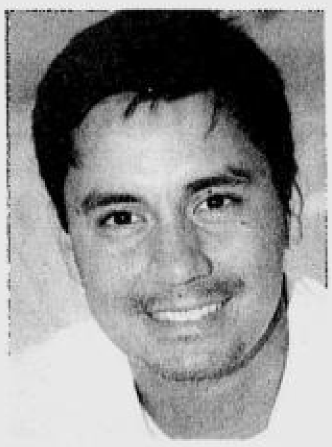
Their participation is sponsored by Dickies, the apparel manufacturer, which targets its products to the action-oriented youth market. To hype the event, the company held a bash at Ratksy Morato where Monching and Tonton led a group of show biz personalities who attended the party. We spotted Rudy Fernandez, Onemig Bondoc, Angelu de Leon, Klaudia Koronel, Pilita Corrales, Eddie Gutierrez, and Ara Mina.

Monching and Tonton follow in the footsteps of Trent Owens, nephew of seven-time NASCAR V champion Richard Petty. Owens is competing for the Dickies Racing Team in a No. 15 Ford F-150.

Dickies vice president for sales and marketing Dody Arcaya stresses, however, that his company is not only interested in motor sports but also in promoting safe driving and road courtesy.

Celebrity volleyball

Several TV personalities will grace the 6th Nestea Beach Valley University Championships today, April 13 at 2:30 p.m. at La Salle Greenhills. Leading the female roster is Angela Velez, a regular on "MTB" known for her mean spikes. Statuesque models Nina Ricci Alagao and Wilma Doesnt will take advantage of their height to power the ball across the net.


GOMEZ. Will co-host "S-Files" and star in a new soap.

Other members of the female team are Isabel Granada, who finished competing as a non-pro in this year's NBVUC, and Beth Tamayo, an outstanding athlete.

The male group is made up of "Unang Hirit" host Hans Montenegro, sportscaster Anthony Suntay, John Lapuz and two surprise guests.

Admission is free.

'On Higher Ground' repeat tonight

Inspirational songs will fill the air when Kuh Ledesma stages the repeat of her concert "On Higher Ground" tonight, April 13 at 9 at the Music Museum. Produced by Artists in Touch, the ministry of the Philippine Campus Crusade for Christ, the concert is for the benefit of the PCCC Center for Discipleship and Evangelism.

The building is now 70 percent complete but needs additional funds to finish construction. When completed, the Center will be open for Bible studies, training, fellowship and counseling for Christians and non-Christians both in and out of show biz.

Kuh will be joined by her daughter, Isabella, who became a serious born-again Christian four years ago.

Call 372-3682.

Game show spoof

"Eat Bulaga" host Allan K spoofs the game show genre in "No One Can Be a Millionaire," part of his comedy revue ""K Na K Ka Na Ba" showing April 19 and 20 at the Music Museum. The show pokes fun at everything Pinoys find amusing about game shows, from hilarious, off-tangent answers to the dazzling lighting and sound effects that make you feel like you're watching a rerun of "Star Wars."

Allan K is one of the original talents of writer-director Andrew de Real of The Library.

Call 721-6726.

TWO FOR THE SHOW

Alessandra steps out of Assunta's shadow

By Mary Ann A. Bautista and Ricky T. Gallardo

ALESSANDRA de Rossi is slowly stepping out of her sister Assunta's shadow. She's a dramatic actress but she's animated and funny off-camera. She's also tough and opinionated, but being a member of "Click" has made her friendlier.

If she could go back to school, she would take up Aeronautics because she wants to be a pilot. Or she'd take a "safe" course like Mass Communications.

She enjoys being the younger sister of Assunta but arguments can't be avoided. What do they usually argue about? "*Minsan, ninanakaw ko ang* make-up *niya. 'Yun lang.*"

What does she love about her sister? "*Mapagbigay*. She agrees with me most of the time. *Pa-underdog.*"

Alessandra intends to leave her mark in show business. Her dream role is Dyesebel. "*Gusto ko,* flat-chested *na sirena!* Or *mabait na* role, *yung aapihin, tapos magiging masama* later on."

She wants to be paired with Diether Ocampo, Cogie Domingo, James Blanco and Troy Montero.

TOENGI. Enriching experience.

Giselle Toengi loves being independent

Living in the States has been an enriching experience for Giselle Toengi. She was in New York for 10 months and she learned to do everything for herself.

"I ruined so many clothes I attempted to wash in the washing machine. But eventually I learned how to do it the correct way. I couldn't bring a dress to the dry cleaner's because it was so expensive. I learned how to cook *salpicao* and *adobo*."

She forgot her celebrity lifestyle in Manila and took the subway like any ordinary resident of the Big Apple. "I am not a show biz star there but a starving actor. When I wanted to eat a tuna sandwich, I would go to a cheap deli. Living in New York taught me humility, perseverance and patience. You can't survive in New York unless you have a stable job.

"But I learned everything, from Greek theater to Neil Simon plays. I'm excited to use the techniques anywhere."

She plans to take up method acting at the Lee Strassberg school to further hone her acting skills.

She performed at the Mercer Hotel in the Soho district. She sang cuts from her solo album and OPM tunes. She also performed at the Cutting Room in the Chelsea district. The place is owned by "Sex and the City" actor Chris Noth.

Ogie Alcasid combines work and family

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ALESSANDRA/ P. E3

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKSHELF

'By George' is a very funny compilation

By Noelani Torre

"BY George: A Kaufman Collection" (St. Martin's Press), is a very funny book, affirming Kaufman's reputation as one of the 20th century's greatest wits.

Rowdy farces

Known as the "gloomy dean of comedy," the Pulitzer prize-winning playwright collaborated on more than 40 plays, most of them hits, which varied in mood from the rowdy farces of his early days to his later, more sophisticated comedies.

After his first successful play, "Dulcy" (1921), also his first collaboration with Marc Connelly, he enjoyed almost unparalleled success until his death in 1961, writing a string of sophisticated satires on contemporary life (usually in collaboration) for the stage and film.

The only full-length plays that he wrote on his own were "The Butter and Egg Man," "The Cocoanuts," and "Hollywood Pinafore."

Master craftsman

According to "By George" editor Donald Oliver, Kaufman was "a master craftsman of the theater with a brilliant eye for comedy and satire." He was "frequently brought in by the producer to transform the script of a promising play into that of a successful one. He was equally adept in almost all varieties of theatrical art—expressionistic satire, as in 'Beggar on Horseback' (also with Marc Connelly); social satire, as in 'Dulcy' And 'Dinner at Eight' (the latter with Edna Ferber); revues, as in 'The Band Wagon' (written with Howard Dietz and Arthur Schwartz); musicals, as in the 1931 Pulitzer Prize-winning 'Of Thee I Sing' (with Morrie Ryskind, George and Ira Gershwin); and comedies, some of the greatest of the twentieth century theater: 'Once In a Lifetime,' 'The Man Who Came to Dinner,' and 'You Can't Take It With You' (another Pulitzer Prize-winner in 1936—and all three written with Moss Hart), 'The Royal Family' (also with Edna Ferber), and 'The Solid Gold Cadillac' (with Howard Teichmann)."

With Morrie Ryskind, Kaufman wrote one of the most successful Marx Brothers scripts, "A Night at the Opera" (1935), and two other screenplays for the famed comedians: "The Cocoanuts" and "Animal Crackers."

Influential

As a drama critic for various New York newspapers, notably "The New York Tribune" and "The New York Times" (he was eventually drama editor of the latter), he was influential in raising the standards of theater criticism.

But Kaufman's talents weren't confined to stage and screen alone. His famous wit also shone in the short pieces he wrote for such magazines and newspapers as The New Yorker, The Nation, Life and The New York Times—and these less remembered but equally amusing works are the ones featured in "By George: A Kaufman Collection."

It is a testament to his remarkable talent that these works—poems, short essays, one-act plays—written from the 1920s to the late '50s, still remain fresh and

'BY GEORGE'/ P. E5

Nathan Lane . . .

(From page E1)

came on stage and presented their stars with bouquets of red roses.

"We wanted to thank you for making us laugh for an entire year," Stroman said, as she wished them well "on your new adventures."

"But when you are done with those film and TV folks," she added, "you need to come back."

Brooks yelled out, "Ditto." The two actors didn't speak.

Lane collected a Tony for his portrayal of Max Bialystock, the role originated in the movie by Zero Mostel, and Broderick was Leo Bloom, the hapless accountant, played by Gene Wilder in the film.

Demanding parts

Both roles are difficult, demanding parts, particularly Lane's, which, in the second act, required him to recapitulate the entire plot in one five-minute musical number that usually stopped the show.

During his run, Lane was plagued by a polyp on his left vocal cord, forcing him to scale back his schedule to six performances a week.

The original supporting cast members, including Tony winners Gary Beach and Cady Huffman, are staying in the show. Both Goodman, who starred in the London revival of "Chicago," and Weber, best known from the TV show "Wings," have nine-month contracts.

Lane and Broderick considered remaining in the musical, yet eventually decided against it. Still, they have left the door open to return to "The Producers" either in New York or another production, The New York Times reported .

It will still be here. Not since "Cats" in 1982 and 15 years later, "The Lion King" in 1997, has a show proven to be such an audience favorite—and such a difficult ticket to snare.

Rave reviews

The day after the musical opened in April 2001 to rave reviews, the producers of "The Producers" raised tickets prices to $100. It didn't deter would-be tickets buyers who queued daily for cancellations and returns.

And in October, the producers formed a company called Broadway Inner Circle to sell several rows of premium orchestra seats for $480 each in the hopes of outwitting scalpers. The price hike pushed weekly grosses past $1.2 million and helped the $10 million musical pay back its production costs in less than year, rare for a big musical.

Lane and Broderick will not be idle for long.

Lane will try his luck again on television with a new CBS series called "Life of the Party." His last TV effort, a comedy called "Encore! Encore!," set in the California wine country, lasted only a few weeks on NBC in 1998 despite the valiant efforts of Lane and a cast that included such theater veterans as Joan Plowright and Glenne Headly.

Broderick also will segue into television. He will star for ABC in a TV version of "The Music Man," playing another charlatan of sorts, Professor Harold Hill, reportedly opposite Kristin Chenoweth as Marian the librarian.

AP

DE ROSSI. Wants to play "a flat-chested mermaid."

Alessandra

(From page E5)

being a responsible husband to his Australian wife Michelle and his darling daughter Leila. Five months from now, the Alcasids' newest baby will be born and Ogie is looking forward to becoming a daddy again.

"A baby is a big blessing and this early, my small family is excited about the new arrival," he gushes. If it's a boy, he might be called Herminio (Ogie's real name) Junior.

"That's why I'm working so hard!" Ogie finds the cue to promote his latest concert, ``One Night Only," Onstage at Greenbelt on April 18.

JC Castro: Sexy means fit

Juan Carlos Castro believes that not everyone who goes bold and daring on screen can be called a true sex symbol. Perhaps the most physically-gifted bold actor now, Castro tries to maintain his gorgeous frame by religiously working out in the gym, eating right and keeping away from vices.

"Keeping fit requires a lot of focus and discipline. The gym has become like a second home to me now and I'm really glad I've included working out as part of my daily activities. *Pag hindi ako naka*-work out, *parang may kulang*," he stresses.

He says that since he has always been known as a sexy actor, he doesn't mind if he continues to do only sexy movies, like his latest film, "*Masarap Ba Ang Bawal?*"

"I know that someday, *may darating din na* role *na magpapatunay na pwede rin akong maging isang* serious actor!" he says.

What really happened?

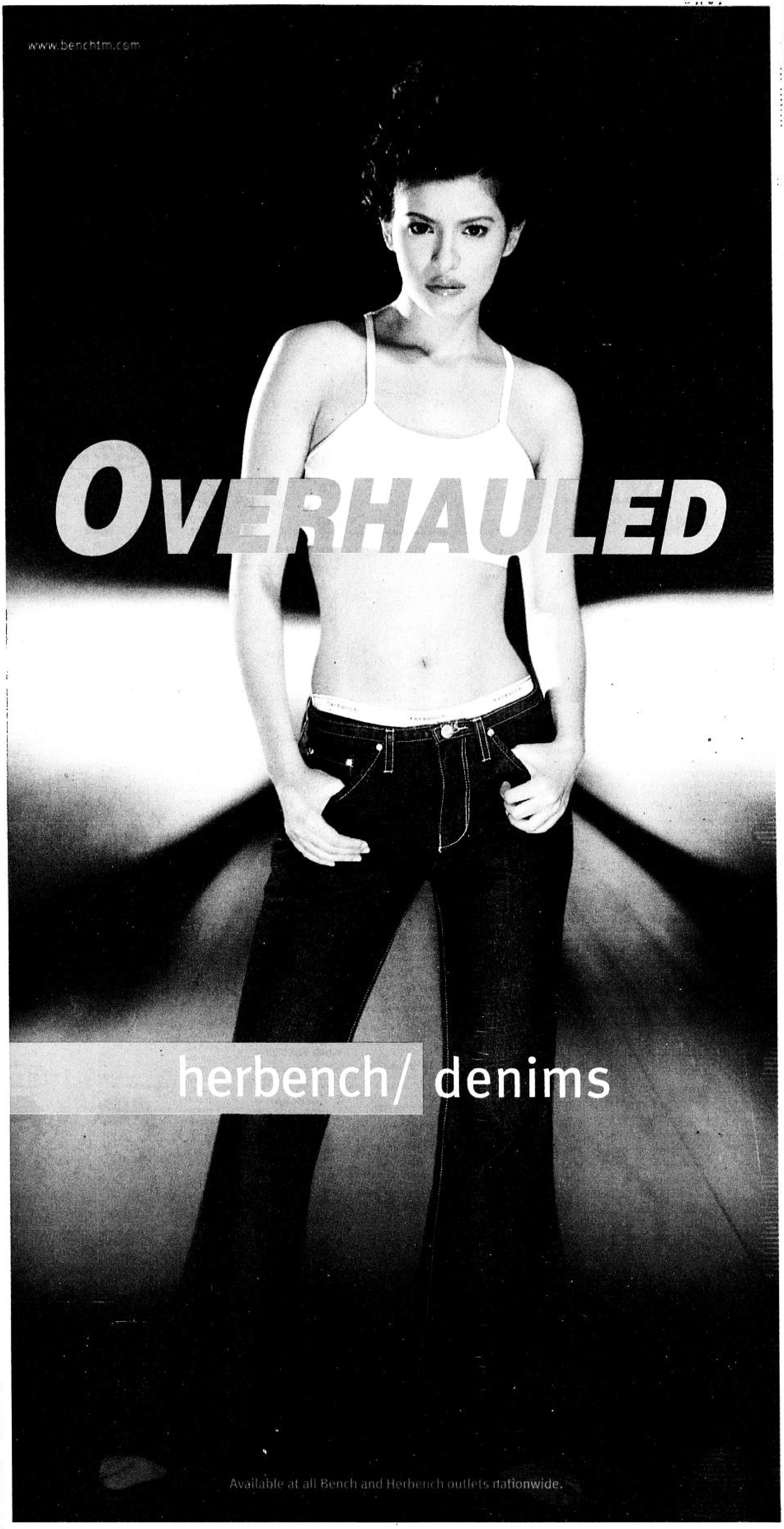
We were glued to our TV screen last Sunday when "S-Files" interviewed Gretchen Barretto by phone from Hong Kong.

After Paolo Bediones said his routinary initial greetings, Gretchen lost no time in airing her message to Bobby and Geraldine Yan for allegedly harassing her sister Claudine through text messages. Bediones tried to interrupt but he wasn't successful. Gretchen took the opportunity to thank Rosanna Roces (who made some seemingly sensible observations in her show "StarTalk" the day before) for being brave and brilliant.

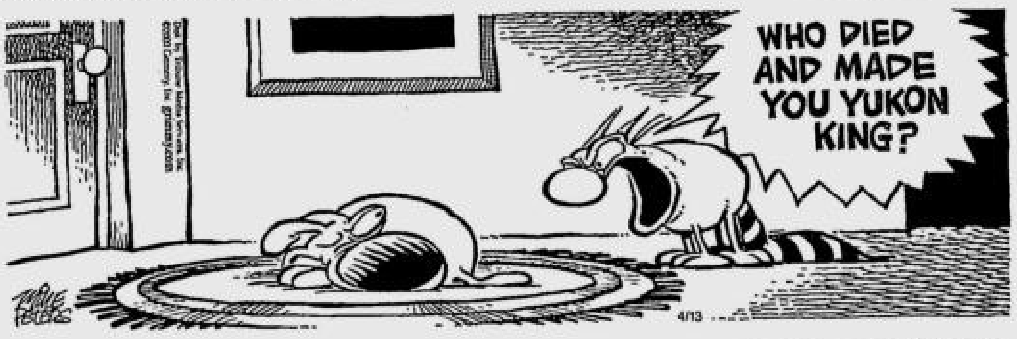
Bediones then asked about the sisters' plans, and Gretchen said that they would call a press conference where Claudine would give a ''blow by blow" account of the truth.

When Gretchen said that she was passing the phone to Marjorie for very important details, the screen turned gray,

ALESSANDRA / P. E5



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
BY MIKE PETERS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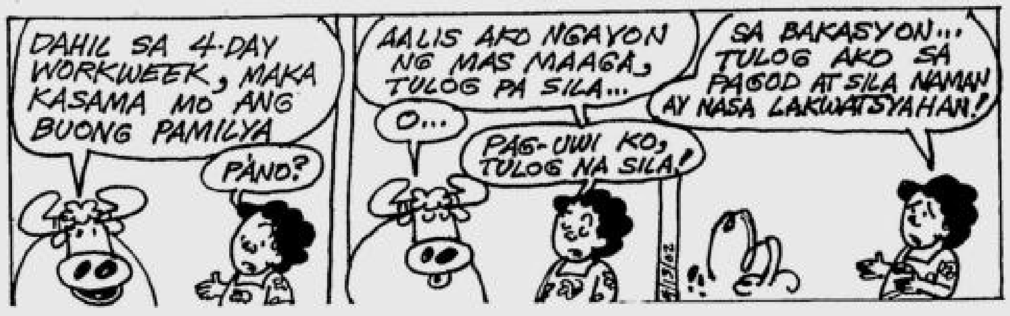
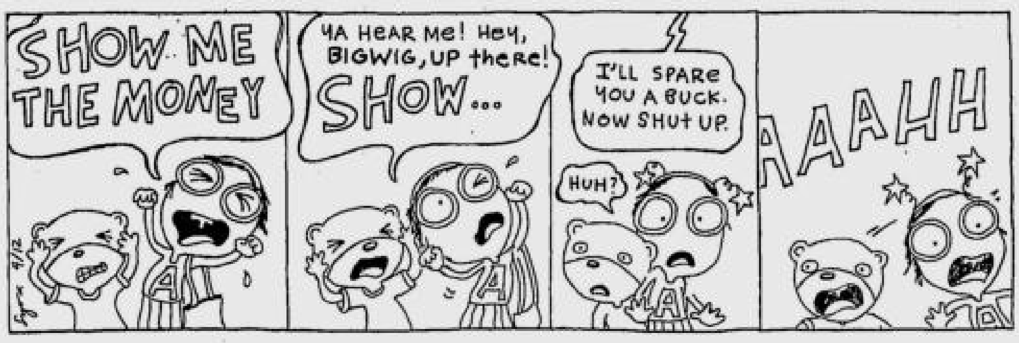
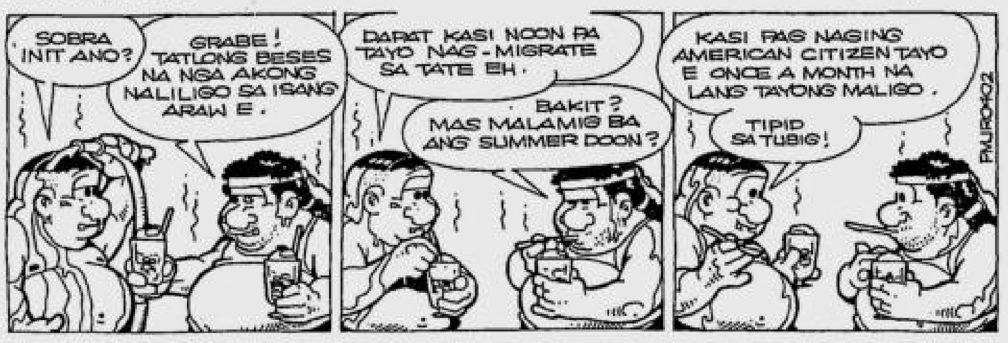
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


DAHIL SA 4-DAY WORKWEEK, MAKA KASAMA MO ANG BUONG PAMILYA
PANO?
AALIS AKO NGAYON NG MAS MAAGA, TULOG PA SILA...
O...
PAG-UWI KO, TULOG NA SILA!
SA BAKASYON... TULOG AKO SA PAGOD AT SILA NAMAN AY NASA LAKWATSYAHAN!
4/13/02

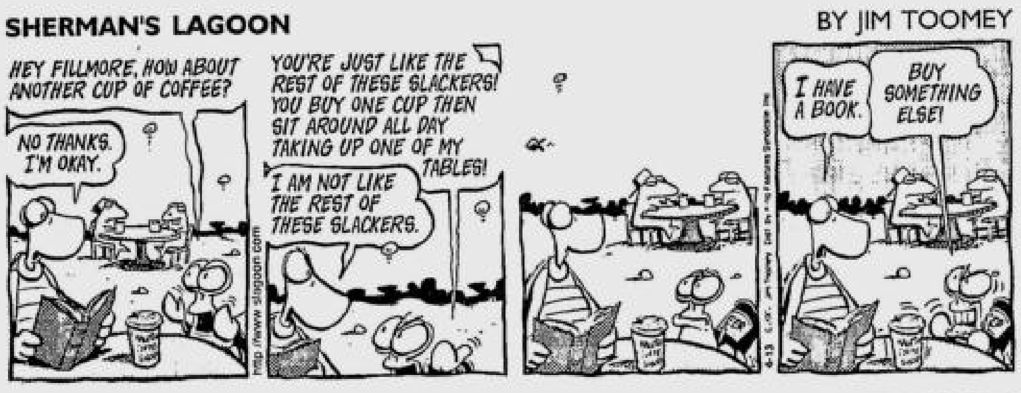
ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SHOW ME THE MONEY
YA HEAR ME! HEY, BIGWIG, UP THERE! SHOW...
I'LL SPARE YOU A BUCK. NOW SHUT UP.
HUH?
AAAHH

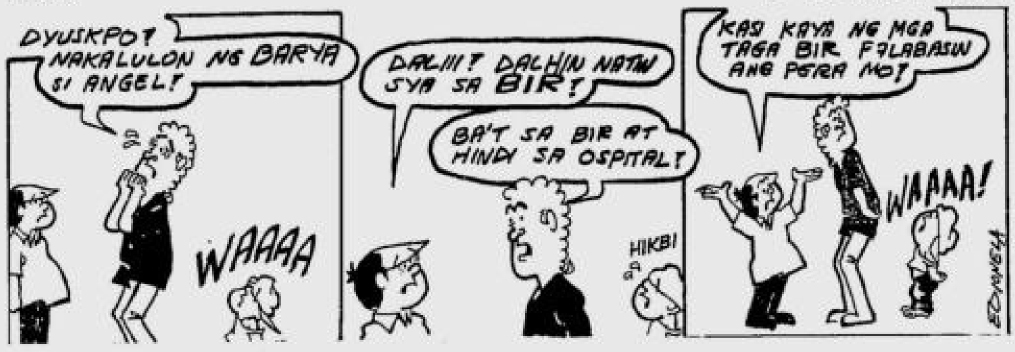
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


SOBRA INIT ANO?
GRABE! TATLONG BESES NA NGA AKONG NALILIGO SA ISANG ARAW E.
DAPAT KASI NOON PA TAYO NAG-MIGRATE SA TATE EH.
BAKIT? MAS MALAMIG BA ANG SUMMER DOON?
KASI PAG NAGING AMERICAN CITIZEN TAYO E ONCE A MONTH NA LANG TAYONG MALIGO.
TIPID SA TUBIG!
PMJR0402

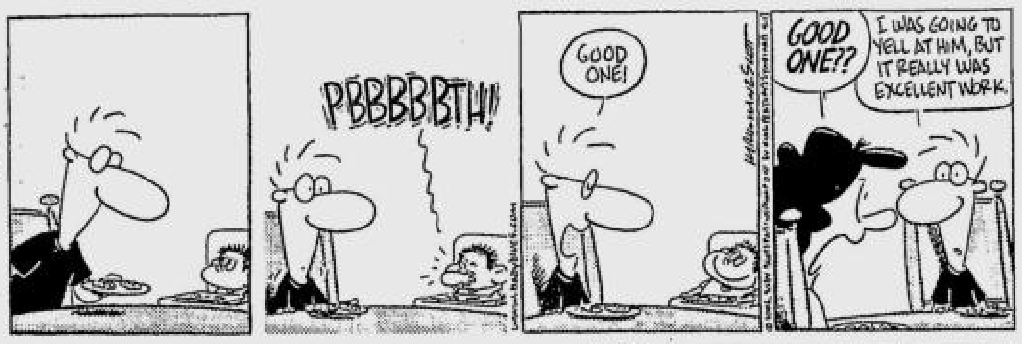
SHERMAN'S LAGOON
BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY FILLMORE, HOW ABOUT ANOTHER CUP OF COFFEE?
NO THANKS. I'M OKAY.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE THE REST OF THESE SLACKERS! YOU BUY ONE CUP THEN SIT AROUND ALL DAY TAKING UP ONE OF MY TABLES!
I AM NOT LIKE THE REST OF THESE SLACKERS.
I HAVE A BOOK.
BUY SOMETHING ELSE!
http://www.slagoon.com

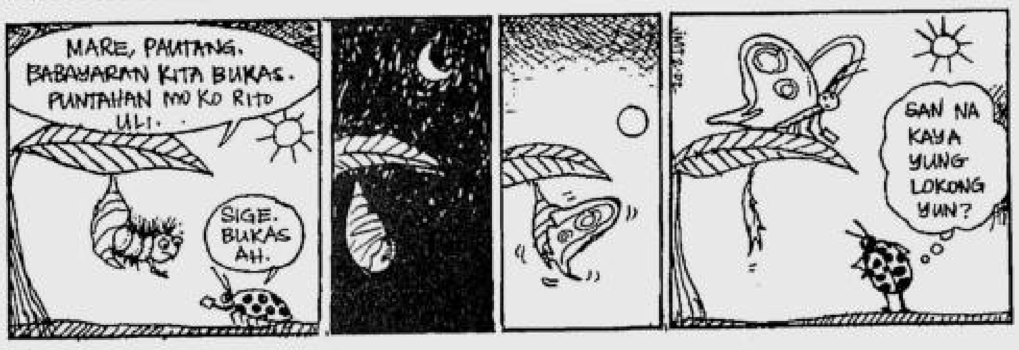
SIMO
BY EDGAR DIONELA


DYUSKPO! NAKALULON NG BARYA SI ANGEL!
WAAAA
DALI!!! DALHIN NATIN SYA SA BIR!
BA'T SA BIR AT HINDI SA OSPITAL!
HIKBI
KASI KAYA NG MGA TAGA BIR FALABASIN ANG PERA MO!
WAAAA!
EDIONELA

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


PBBBBBTH!
GOOD ONE!
GOOD ONE!?
I WAS GOING TO YELL AT HIM, BUT IT REALLY WAS EXCELLENT WORK.

MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MARE, PAUTANG. BABAYARAN KITA BUKAS. PUNTAHAN MO KO RITO ULI.
SIGE. BUKAS AH.
SAN NA KAYA YUNG LOKONG YUN?

HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thomas Jefferson, Jack Cassidy, Rick Schroder

Happy Birthday: Sudden changes will take place with regard to your likes and dislikes this year. You may be inclined to change your friends or your partner if you become bored and unhappy. You will benefit through the investments you get involved in. Be careful not to get railroaded into taking on other people's burdens. Your numbers are 8, 19, 27, 33, 36, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work done from home will be your best bet today. Focus on all the little things that you have neglected lately and you will feel much better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): The changes going on in your personal life must be dealt with before they drive you to distraction. Don't sit back feeling sorry for yourself; take action and refuse to let anything bother you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't trust anyone pushing unusual philosophies or looking for handouts. Be careful if you have to travel; a delay due to a transportation problem is evident.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): If you want to make a donation do so but do it for the right reasons. You can count on others to do favors for you if you ask. You will make an impression on people you meet at functions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a low profile today. It will be impossible to please everyone today. Contemplate your next move but don't make it just yet.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You will want to get out and about today, joining in all sorts of activities and trying your hand at new things. Be careful not to divulge any personal information about yourself or someone you least expect will pass it along as gossip.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't hesitate to see a professional if you are suffering from an ear, nose or throat problem today. It will only get worse if you don't take care of it right away.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll have problems with a partner if you've been too busy to notice what he or she has been up to. You'll have to stay on top of things if you don't want to suffer losses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your mind will be on your work. You may need to put in a little overtime if you want to finish a project. Your efforts will pay off and you'll get the recognition you deserve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Mix a little business with pleasure if possible. Don't let someone you are close to confuse issues by suddenly making changes that will affect you as well.

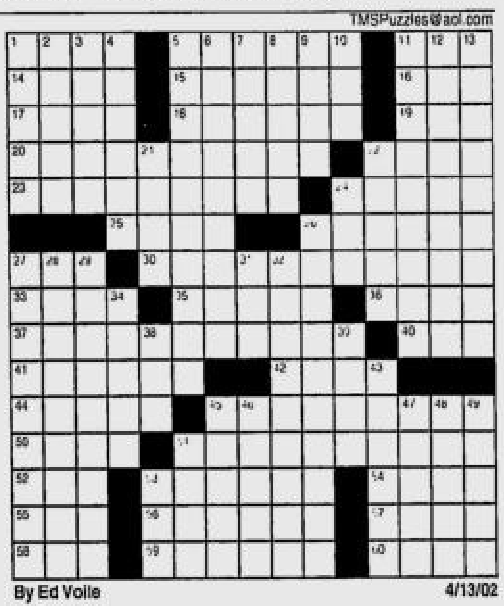
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to sort through any issues that have been bothering you. Get back to basics and you will find it much easier to cope with everything going on around you. Look at your situation realistically.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need a break. A pleasure trip will give you a new lease on life. You need to spend time relaxing with friends or family. The more fun you have the less you will worry.

Birthday Baby: You will desire a bohemian lifestyle. You will not be one to meld with the social structure. You will always think for yourself and therefore will end up in a leadership position. You are unique, sensitive and thoughtful.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Ed Voile
Gillette, WY
4/13/02

ACROSS
1 Fete
5 Laconian city
11 Squealer
14 Seth's pop
15 Superimpose
16 __ for the money...
17 Zero
18 Implanted
19 Condemnation from the church
20 Presidential subsidy
22 Moderate
23 Malicious sarcasm
24 Mountain subdivision
25 Fill too much
26 Fries' companion
27 Eur. nation
30 Commercial wares
33 Previous spouses
35 Rise up
36 Nile wading bird
37 Preventive against thyroid disease
40 Night flyer
41 Entrapped
42 Opening
44 Hayes or Hunt
45 Root-flavored candies
50 Belligerent god
51 Gamblers' destination
52 Drinks counter
53 Language of Mogadishu
54 Congregation feedback
55 Giant with a retired number
56 Pulverizes
57 Sacrifice
58 Sure enough
59 Still
60 No big deal

DOWN
1 Criminal collective
2 Festoon
3 Hawaiian island
4 Recompense
5 Broken into fragments
6 Broke new ground
7 Robert and Alan
8 Philbin of TV
9 Word used to distinguish sloths
10 Plus
11 One of the Bee Gees
12 Deadening of pain
13 Superlatively sore
21 Side in a contest
22 __ Gras
24 Stocking flaw
26 Pilot in a gondola
27 Jerry Lewis comedy
28 Free from blame
29 Dangerous situations
31 Network with an eye for its logo
32 Congestive maladies
34 Fathers
38 Buddhism branch
39 Made haste
43 Other suitors
45 Madagascar primate
46 Substanceless
47 Bit part
48 Perfect places
49 __ Domingo
51 Action's cause
53 Health haven

Friday's Puzzle Solved

P	E	S	T	S	■	I	R	M	A	■	S	H	A	M
A	N	W	A	R	■	D	I	A	L	■	A	E	R	O
B	R	O	M	I	D	E	S	C	L	I	C	H	E	S
L	O	R	E	■	R	A	K	E	■	C	R	A	S	S
O	L	D	■	M	U	L	L	■	P	E	A	S	■	■
■	■	O	V	U	M	■	I	D	O	S	■	A	S	P
H	I	F	I	S	■	A	F	R	O	■	S	H	O	E
A	N	D	S	T	A	L	E	O	L	D	C	O	R	N
N	C	A	A	■	L	E	A	P	■	R	O	L	E	S
D	A	M	■	A	M	E	N	■	B	A	W	L	■	■
■	■	O	T	I	S	■	D	D	A	Y	■	O	B	I
A	R	C	E	D	■	S	L	E	W	■	T	W	I	N
T	I	L	T	A	T	W	I	N	D	M	I	L	L	S
O	V	E	R	■	R	A	M	S	■	B	E	E	B	E
M	E	S	A	■	A	B	B	E	■	A	R	G	O	T

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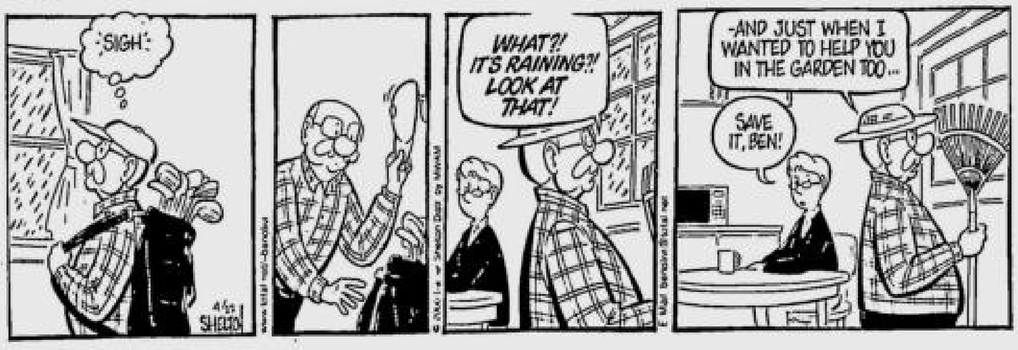
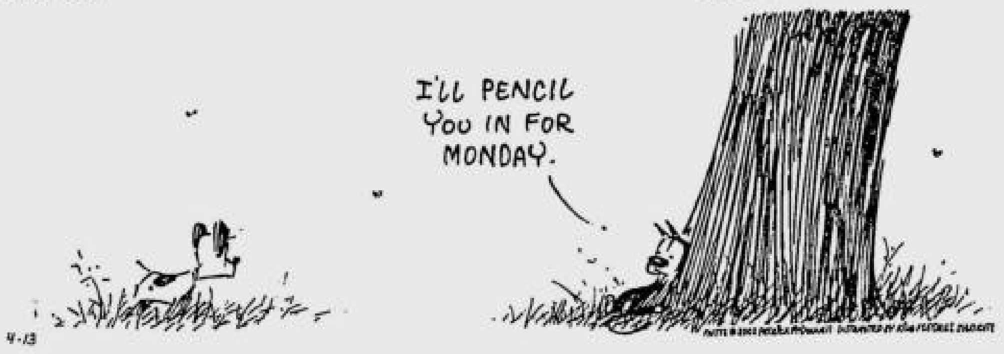
4/13/02

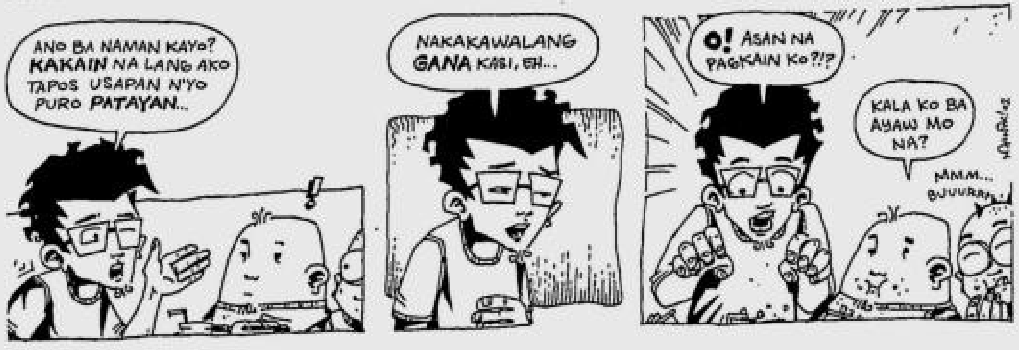
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


SIGH
WHAT?! IT'S RAINING?! LOOK AT THAT!
-AND JUST WHEN I WANTED TO HELP YOU IN THE GARDEN TOO...
SAVE IT, BEN!
4/13 SHELTON

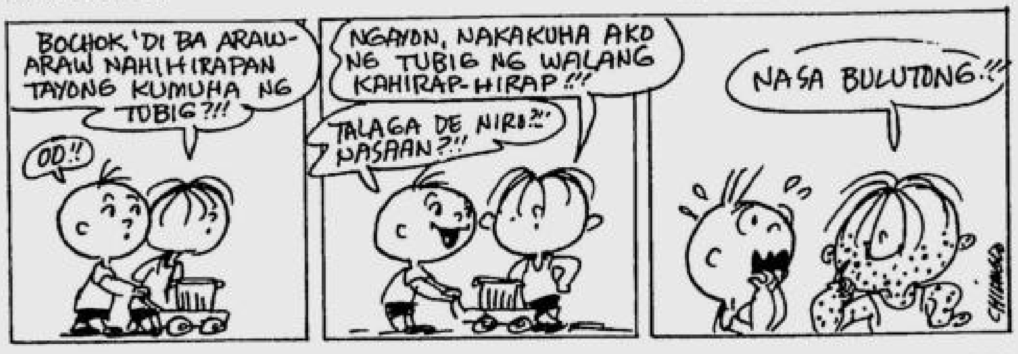
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


I'LL PENCIL YOU IN FOR MONDAY.
4-13

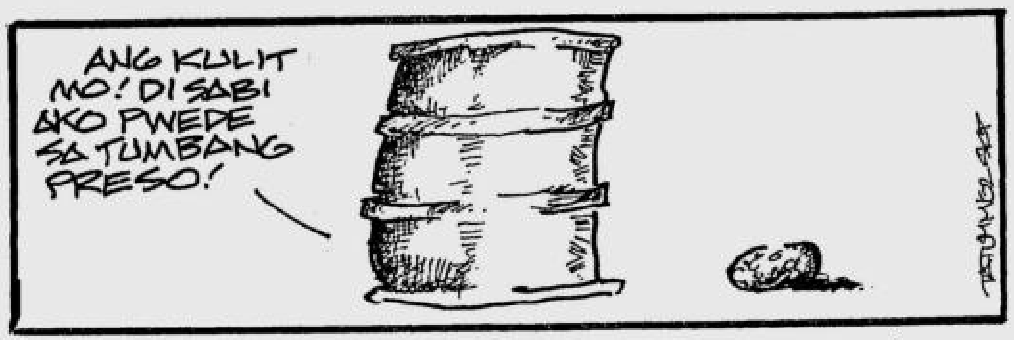
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


ANO BA NAMAN KAYO? KAKAIN NA LANG AKO TAPOS USAPAN N'YO PURO PATAYAN...
NAKAKAWALANG GANA KASI, EH...
O! ASAN NA PAGKAIN KO?!?
KALA KO BA AYAW MO NA?
MMM... BJUURRP

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, 'DI BA ARAW-ARAW NAHIHIRAPAN TAYONG KUMUHA NG TUBIG?!!
OO!!
NGAYON, NAKAKUHA AKO NG TUBIG NG WALANG KAHIRAP-HIRAP!!!
TALAGA DE NIRO?!! NASAAN?!!
NASA BULUTONG!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


ANG KULIT MO! DI SABI AKO PWEDE SA TUMBANG PRESO!

ALCASID. Looking forward to becoming a daddy again.

Alessandra

(From page E3)

although the audio was still on. This prompted us to wonder if there was a powerful hand that stopped the interview.

Upon resumption for the program, the hosts said they experienced "technical difficulty."

Sabotage, curtailment of free broadcasting, or what? We think viewers deserve an honest explanation from the program.

'By George'

(From page E2)

cuttingly witty now, as they were half a century before.

There are 50 pieces collected in this book, including the complete text of the Marx Brothers' show "The Cocoanuts," a parody of "H.M.S. Pinafore" entitled "Hollywood Pinafore," and "Life's Calendar for 1922" (written with Marc Connelly), a hilarious history of human "achievements."

One of our favorites is "School for Waiters," wherein Kaufman reveals his discovery of a school where waiters are taught lessons like "How to Get the Order Wrong," "Point Killing," and "Avoiding the Diner's Eye." What with our own experiences with rude waiters—especially those working in so-called posh restaurants—we find it hard not to believe in Mr. Kaufman's funny yet edgy account.

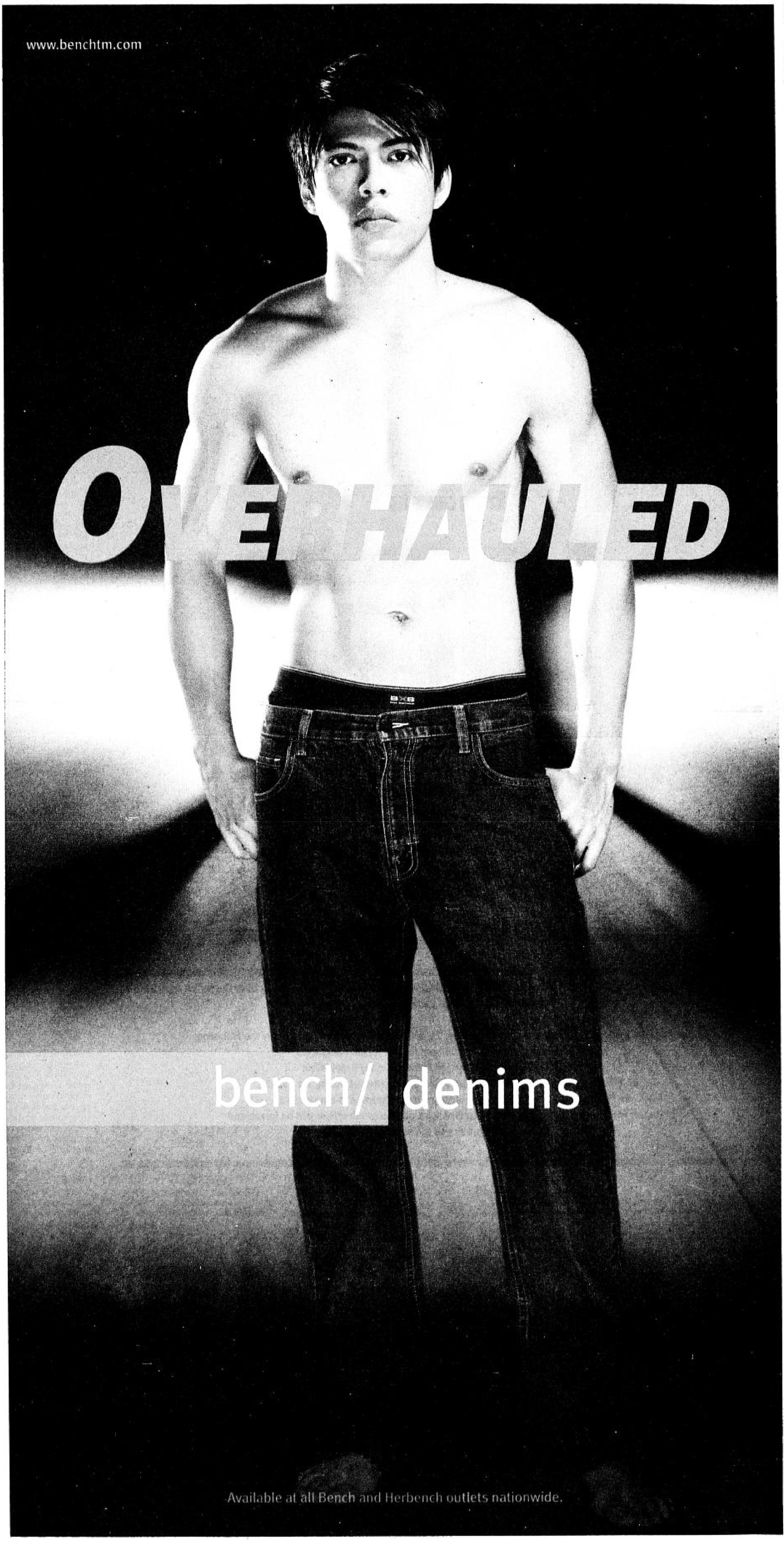
Irreverent

In his and Connelly's irreverent "Life's Calendar for 1922," such events as "Plato begins lecture course, 399 B.C. Husbands bring home something new in explanations, 399 B.C." are chronicled.

Juxtaposed against such momentous occasions as the birth of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on February 27, 1807 are totally unconnected but seemingly equally momentous events such as "Citizen of Portsmouth, N.H., actually finds himself with as many trouser hangers as he has pairs of trousers, 1917."

"The sketch 'If Men Played Cards As Women Do' alone is worth the price of the book," says Dick Cavett in his foreword to "By George," and we heartily agree with him. Here Kaufman makes his four male characters—John, Bob, George, and Mac—act like the usual gossipy and dress-conscious participants in a "ladies' card party," without abandoning their "forthright and manly" manner. We suppose this old piece is a bit demeaning to women but it does contain undeni-

'BY GEORGE'/ P. E6



Bad Friday

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IT WAS Good Friday. I was alone in my room. I was helpless—the household help took the day off. The kids were in their own corner of the world. It was quiet. Too quiet. I remember asking why it was always quiet on Good Friday. Like heaven and earth were in mourning. Little did I realize that the stillness just foreshadowed the devastating tragedy that would shock the nation.

Reflections

After my morning prayers and Lenten reflections, I pretended I wasn't bored. I reread my last column, which sent me scouring my collection of books on Hollywood icons. I gleefully read again the biography of Grace Kelly. I was totally lost in her wonderful fairy tale world, deciding in my mind if her so-called affair with Clark Gable was real, or just fodder for the Hollywood press. Germs (German Moreno) called.

Germs knew I knew Teresita Castro-Yan. He wanted me to confirm if the reports about her son Rico were true. I was incredulous, mentally chiding Germs for dignifying such idle gossip. Surely, this was just a product of some bored but hyperactive mind? Or the summer heat had a way of making the imagination of some people go wilder than usual?

I did make a few calls. I was told Sita wasn't home, off to Tanay with her dad. A few more calls and I learned she rushed back home to Manila after she got a call from her husband Robby. She couldn't be reached through her cellphone, she had turned it off.

Then came the flood of text messages. The same thing happened in the case of Nida Blanca. I felt a certain coldness run through my spine. It was then that I knew: the reports were true. Rico was dead.

Prayers

Automatically, I mumbled some prayers but I couldn't focus on the words. My mind was trailing off to the distant but suddenly vivid past. Poignant childhood memories crowded in my mind. Rico's parents and I belonged to what we fondly called the military brats. The homes of the Castros and the Yans at Camp Aguinaldo sandwiched ours. This was during our respective dads' active military service.

There was something about families of military men that made us closer than ordinary neighbors. Us kids had some kind of special bond, a kinship that could only be partaken of by kindred spirits. We not only grew up together, played the same games, climbed the same trees and strolled down the same streets during hot and humid summer evenings, but we also shared a life, a common ideal. And we shared the same fears: what if our dads couldn't come home anymore?

Best friend

I remember Sita then. She was very beautiful, easily the prettiest of us all. My best friend at the time was her sister Tasi. And, I recall, I had this big, big crush on her brother GP who was so drop-dead *guwapo*, but was totally my elaborate discomfort each time he was within my vision's radius.

When Rico joined show business and I learned that he was a son of Robby and Sita, I saw in him how so good my childhood friends had become as parents. They raised him so well that he was the boy every mother would want to sweep their daughter off her feet.

> We not only played the same games, climbed the same trees and strolled down the same streets during hot summer evenings, but we also shared a common ideal

YAN. Lived life to the fullest.

Indeed, Rico was such a joy. He totally personified his generation – its energy and love for life, as well as its hopes and dreams amidst the seeming gloom of our life as a nation. Rico stood for everything we wanted for ourselves as he also symbolized the future we wanted so much to happen in our lives:

R – Revelry. His sense of fun was contagious. It was like every moment spent on sadness was such a waste! His smile. His dimples. His perpetually laughing eyes. They spoke of the joy that inhabited his heart – the kind of joy born out of his faith that life is a gift and, to show our appreciation for the Giver, we have to live it to the fullest.

Business savvy

I – Intelligence. Rico was the most intelligent young star of his generation – bar none! And I don't just mean his business management degree from DLSU or his business savvy that fathered several very successful businesses.

He was a matinee idol, the object of the shrieks and screams and the fantasies of the fans, and he loved the attention and the adulation – but, somehow, he exuded a sense that it all really didn't enter his head. He enjoyed it, he partook of it, but it didn't spoil him. He was too intelligent for that.

C – Cool. Rico was in control. Of himself and his life. Of his feelings and emotions. Of his lovelife and career and everything else. He was a paragon of cool.

Of course, like everybody else, he had his share of what Sinatra called life's ups and downs. He also blew it sometimes. Even lost it in some instances. But he always bounced back. I suspect, this was because of a spiritual core that he had found deep inside – a connection with his God that provided his anchor.

O – Others. He was a people person. He had this uncanny ability to touch people's lives in ways that were as profound later as they were trivial at first. During his wake, his family was astounded to learn at the sheer number and diversity of the people whose lives he has connected with.

Rico truly loved people. He was genuinely interested in them, and he invested a part of himself in each person he met. He was truly involved. He didn't just go through the motions of ritualizing relationships with people.

Staunch belief

Y – Youth. Rico had this staunch belief in the youth of this country. While others saw today's young people as interested only in gimmicks and texting, Rico saw that the youth would be this nation's engine for growth. He knew, with unerring accuracy, that if young people were only given the correct direction and guidance, they would be a potent force in reshaping the destiny of this country.

A – Angel. That he helped the poor, planted trees for a healthier environment, actively spoke out against drugs, and promoted youth empowerment – which he did without the glare of publicity – is a testament to his being an agent of positive change in a negative world, a messenger from a God who loves His people so much that He constantly lends His angels out to them, for them to know that He cares.

N – Natural. Rico is a natural. In the show biz world of fakery and sham, he was an original. How he not only survived but triumphed in a place where duplicity and lies were customary offerings at the altar of stardom and expedience is a tribute to his adherence to values that he continued to hold dear at a time when they were already deemed old-fashioned.

Last week, Rico was laid to rest. I knew, with a certainty that overruled human understanding, that he went straight to heaven. The manner of his death was a giveaway. He died on the day that Jesus died. It wasn't a bad Friday, after all. And he died in paradise – for how else can we accurately describe the pristine, serene beauty of Dos Palmas?

Besides, I know how well God takes care of His own. Yes, Rico is now with Him. And heaven is now an even happier place than it was.

'By George'

(From page E5)

able truths and Kaufman's comic expertise is of the highest order.

Funny, irreverent and bitingly satirical, we spent most of the time giggling and chuckling over Kaufman's witticisms in this highly amusing collection and we're glad to have discovered this tremendously talented individual, albeit belatedly.

Hit the career trail!

JOBZ

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Viva TV's 'Star for a Night' is off to a bumpy start

By Nestor U. Torre

VIVA TV's new talent search program, "Star for A Night," is only two telecasts old, but it's already encountering difficulties that, if left to fester, could compromise its chances of success:

Choice of songs

First there seems to be a problem with some of the contestants' choice of songs to interpret. Some numbers come off as strained, forced and not right for the interpreter, possibly because the contestant did not choose the song.

It really is quite important that the song suit the interpreter's temperament, capabilities and performance style. If the contestant is 12 or 13 years old but is made to interpret a song about mature love, or sing in a jazzy style that requires performing experience and musical acuity, the effect can be awkward and trying-hard.

Second, the judging is occasionally questionable. Viewers feel certain that one contestant is a decided standout, but the prize is given to a performer who hits a number of flat notes.

Candid evaluation

Also, in the first telecast, the contestants learned from the judges' candid evaluation of their plus *and* minus points, but in last Sunday's show, the judges were too polite and soft-pedaled their analyses. As a result, judges and contestants were reduced to exchanging boring, little pleasantries with each other.

The show should quickly revert back to the forthright evaluation that the judges made in the first telecast. That way, the contestants can get a more objective appreciation of their strength *and* weaknesses—and what they can do to improve their chances in future singing tilts.

Plus points

Third, Regine Velasquez has to be more imaginative and creative in hosting the talent search. At the moment, she gains plus points for being genuinely interested in helping the contestants do well.

VELASQUEZ (right) with first episode's winner, Roxanne Castro.

But she is much less effective in drawing them out of their shy, nervous or taciturn selves, and in generally keeping the show interesting and exciting for viewers.

What more can she do? Stop sticking to the usual, pat questions that can be answered with yes or no, and get more into the contestants' thoughts and feelings about music, expressing themselves, winning, career prospects, high and low points to date, etc.

Challenge

Of course, some contestants won't be easy to draw out, but this is precisely why TV hosting is an art and a challenge that requires *all* of a host's creativity, energy and knack for psychology.

Fourth, the show's vaunted "professional" staging and showcasing of the contestants' numbers is quickly becoming predictable and even tawdry. For instance, the costuming of the girl group last Sunday was messy, and not right for the girls' tender years.

Kneejerk

In addition, choreography, back-up singers and dancers, camerawork and lighting generally come off as too "kneejerk show biz." Each number should have its own production style that's different and unique.

If this is too much work, the show should stop making such a big deal about the so-called professional polish that it's supposed to be providing for its amateur talents, so that judges and viewers can more correctly evaluate their promise as professional performers in the future.

Some contestants won't be easy to draw out, but this is precisely why TV hosting is an art and a challenge

In The Wizard of Oz, Toto the dog made more money than Judy Garland who played Dorothy.

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Helga Melgar, Holiday Inn's amazing PR

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"HELLO friends. It's summer! That means time for barbecues again." The e-mail is from Maria Helga T. Melgar, Holiday Inn's PR and marketing communicator.

Really good

Helga adds, "Our Ihaw-Ihaw sa Poolside" promotion has started. It is really good and worth it. At just P490++, one can indulge in fresh salad selections and barbecue buffet, among others!

"I tried it myself last night. I feasted on "*ulang*" (really big and fresh shrimps). Hope you can try it yourself and come over. That's every Friday and Saturday, poolside, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and it ends with the onset of the rainy season, which we hope is still far off."

The other column of Helga's e-mail focuses on the "Explore Manila First" packages of Holiday Inn's Summer Breakout for local residents who like to enjoy summer without having to go out-of-town. Easy room booking is through 1-800-1651-888.

Photography

Some 14 years ago, Helga Melgar took up photography and was using my black-and-white darkroom for her assignments. Thirteen years of experience in marketing and communications have shaped Helga into a fine public relations practitioner.

Some of her achievements: As a young practitioner, she created the Children's Club and Mascots of Isetann Department Store; convinced the conservative and traditional Japanese management of Manila Diamond Hotel to engage in advertising and strengthen its media ties; completed the first-ever Access Customer Business Center at CallShop in Caloocan City; played a pivotal role in branding Eastern Telecom's local exchange service, Eastern Access.

Post-graduate studies

Presently, our lovely PR executive is pursuing post-graduate studies at the Ateneo Graduate School-Ateneo Regis MBA Program (accelerated MBA). A new member of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), her strength is in setting up integrated marketing communications and brand management.

At Holiday Inn, Helga conceptualizes and launches high-impact themes for the hotel. Currently, the theme is "Explore Manila First—and Positively Philippines!"

Call the hotel at 526-1212 loc. 2224.

Mandy Navasero Batch 2002 'Learn by Doing' weekly shoots

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MELGAR. Proud of the hotel's "Ihaw-Ihaw sa Poolside" promo.

Orson Welles back from grave for new TV show

By Jonathan Kent

LONDON—Screen legend Orson Welles is being brought back to life in a television remake of the classic '50s radio crime drama "The Black Museum" which he narrated, the show's producer said on Friday.

Milestone

Welles, who paralyzed America with fear when his '30s radio news broadcast interpretation of HG Wells "War of the Worlds" led many to believe Earth was being invaded by Martians, also directed and starred in "Citizen Kane," a cinema milestone.

"I have a feeling knowing Orson as well as I did that if he were around he'd be laughing," Harry Alan Towers, who produced both the original radio show and the TV remake, told Reuters.

"The Black Museum" takes it's title from the name coined for Scotland Yard's Crime Museum by a reporter in 1877, two years after the museum opened. Each episode of the original focused on an item in the collection.

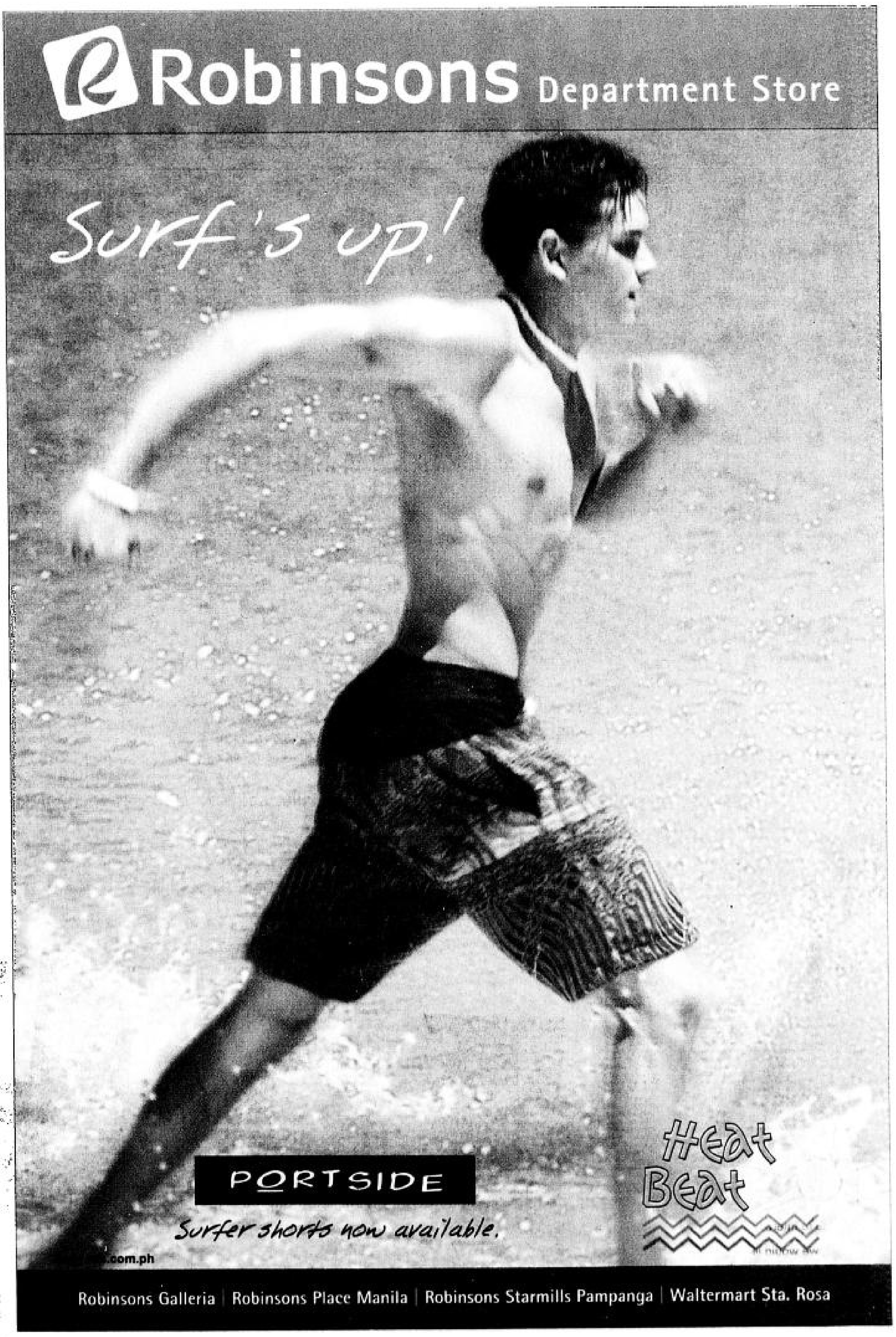
"This is Orson Welles speaking from London. The Black Museum, repository of death," Welles intoned in his booming voice opening a 1952 episode "The Bathtub."

"Here, in this grim stone structure on the Thames which houses Scotland Yard, is a warehouse of homicide, where everyday objects, a piece of wire, a chemist's flask, a silver shilling, all are touched by murder," he said.

Digitally transposed

Welles' voice will be digitally transposed from the original radio series onto the film. Viewers will see Welles's silhouette recreated by an actor as the late auteur narrates the TV show.

Each episode will feature a different contemporary star. The actor Michael York will star in the pilot to be shot on London's streets in the next few days. John Rhys-Davies ("Lord of the Rings") and Patrick Bergin ("Patriot Games") are earmarked for future episodes. *Reuters*



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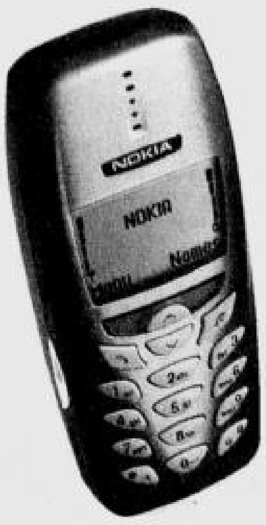

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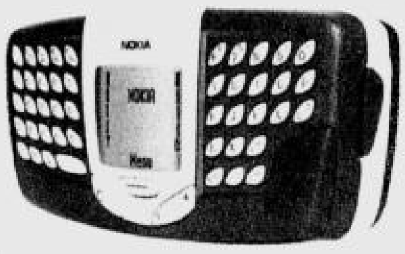

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AOL Time Warner execs top Hollywood 'Power List'

HANKS. The most "powerful" actor on the list, at only No. 15.

LOS ANGELES—Studio executives edged out movie stars on Premiere magazine's "Power List" of the 100 most influential people in Hollywood, reflecting what editors called a shift in entertainment that puts concept over content.

Top spot

Sharing the top spot on the 2002 list—which is picked over every year by Hollywood insiders for signs of rising and falling fortunes—were AOL Time Warner Inc.'s top executives, Richard Parsons and Robert Pittman.

Currently, the two share the co-chief operating officer title, but in May Parsons takes over the helm of the world's largest media company from retiring Chief Executive Officer Gerald Levin and Pittman becomes the No. 2 executive.

In addition to its Internet services empire, the company owns Warner Bros. studios, the WB television network, Time Warner Cable and cable channels CNN and HBO.

Dropping from first place to second on this year's list is Sumner Redstone, chairman and chief executive of media giant Viacom Inc., which owns film studio Paramount Pictures and TV network CBS.

He is followed by media mogul Barry Diller and Jean-Marie Messier. The two will soon be teamed up to run Vivendi Universal, the French media concern that owns Universal Studios. Diller will run Universal.

Media tycoon

Media tycoon Rupert Murdoch, who heads News Corp. Ltd. and its Fox television and movie studio divisions, is fourth on the list, followed by Walt Disney Co. chairman and chief executive Michael Eisner at No. 5.

Perhaps the biggest surprise on Premiere's 2002 list is the failure of any film star to crack the top 10. Tom Hanks placed 15th, followed by Tom Cruise as No. 16 and Mel Gibson, No. 17.

"This year's list symbolizes a shift in Hollywood economics," Premiere's editors said in a statement. "Firstly, concept, not content, now reigns supreme."

> This year's list symbolizes a shift in Hollywood economics. Concept, not content, now reigns supreme

In the 1990s, the catch-phrase "content is king" was widely used in media circles to represent the idea that the companies producing the most popular movies, music or TV shows would be the most valuable entities. Financial power was closely tied to star power.

In recent years, entertainment companies have merged into fewer and fewer major players. Those companies, many of which are publicly owned, must pay close attention to profits, and making money in Hollywood is not necessarily about the best product but about getting any product into the most outlets.

Evolving environment

"This evolving environment stresses that selling a film and making box-office returns is key," the magazine's editors said. "For instance sequels, broad comedies and kid-friendly fare have dominated the box-office because they endure the lowest risk."

Filmmaker Steven Spielberg remained in sixth place, where he sat last year. But he, too, is at the head of one of Hollywood's major studios as a co-founder and principal partner in the DreamWorks movie studio. His partners David Geffen and Jeffrey Katzenberg were tied for the No. 12 spot.

Rounding out the top 10 were Universal Studios' Ron Meyer and Stacey Snider in the No. 7 slot, Warner Bros. heads Barry Meyer and Alan Horn at No. 8, Paramount Pictures' Jonathan Dolgen and Sherry Lansing No. 9 and Fox's Peter Chernin, No. 10.

Julia Roberts, who scored 12th last year after winning her first Academy Award, the best actress Oscar for her performance in "Erin Brockovich," dropped to 18th.

Director Ron Howard, who won Oscar gold this year with his film "A Beautiful Mind," climbed two spots on the list to 29, while the movie's star, Russell Crowe, vaulted from 41 to 28.

Reuters

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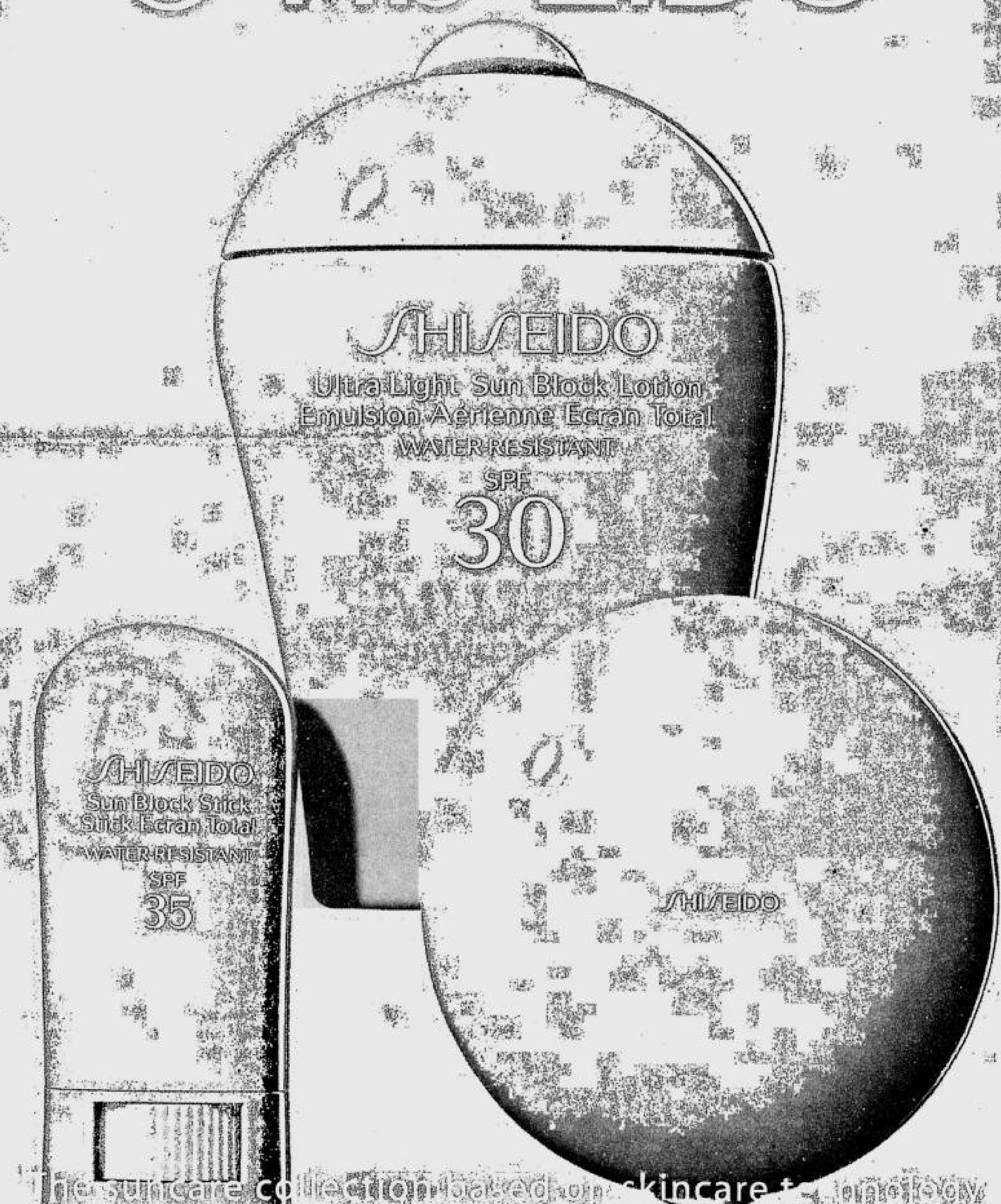

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'Magnificat' artists put up play on Padre Pio

ON June 16 this year, Padre Pio, the world-renowned Capuchin priest and stigmatist, will be proclaimed a Saint of the Roman Catholic Church in impressive and moving rites at the Vatican, presided over by His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Important event

Padre Pio's canonization is an important event for his friends and followers in the Philippines, hence their decision to ask Nestor U. Torre to write and direct a biographical play in his honor, with performances to start in May, leading up to the canonization rites in June, and after.

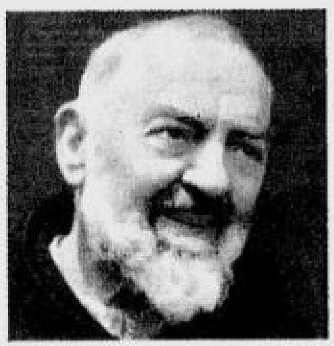
Torre has directed popular and critically-acclaimed productions like "Magsimula Ka," and "Katy!" In the field of religious stage productions, he has written and directed moving and popular works like "Magnificat," "Nasaan si Hesus" and "Bakhita, The Musical," which have been performed all over the country. A number of the outstanding performers in those religious presentations will also be in the biographical play on Padre Pio.

Torre's play on Padre Pio is titled "Sundin and Loob Mo: Buhay at Pag-aalay ni Padre Pio." It has been designed as a portable touring production that can be performed in schools, churches, offices, public plazas, etc. If you want the play to be performed in your parish or locality call Pablo at 713-9323 or 0917-9893089.

Deep spirituality

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina in Italy is described as "a saint of modern times," much admired for his humility, deep spirituality and particular devotion to the Eucharist and the sacrament of Reconcilation (confession). Thus, he is also known as "the martyr of the confessional. On some days, he would hear confessions for more than 12 hours straight.

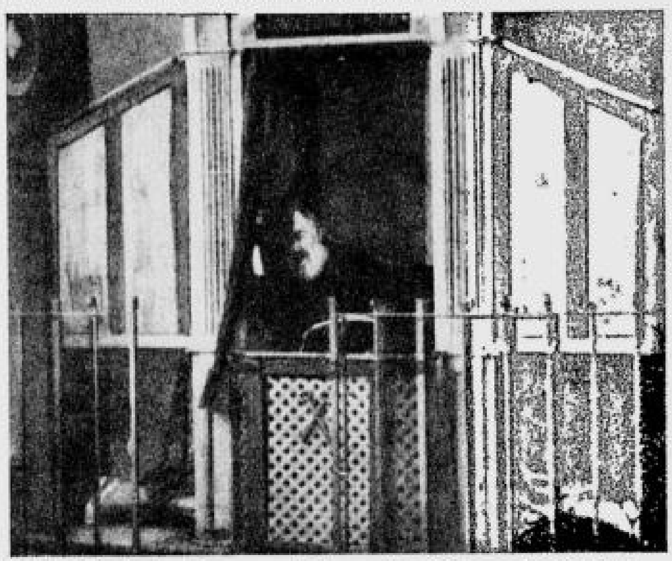
Born on May 25, 1887, he entered the novitiate of the Order of the Capuchin Friars Minor in 1903 and was ordained a priest in 1910. In 1916, he was sent to the friary of San Giovanni Rotondo, where he remained until his death in 1968, to the benefit and edification of many of the faithful. In 1918, they witnessed in him the stigmata, or signs of our Lord's Passion.



PADRE Pio towards the end of his life.

THE YOUNG priest with his stigmata.

THE STIGMATIST-PRIEST blesses his flock after Mass.



PADRE Pio is also known as "the martyr of the confessional."

Full of love for God and humanity, Padre Pio lived his vocation of redemption to the fullest. He realized this through the spiritual direction of lost souls, the sacrament of confession and the celebration of the Eucharist. He became famous for "seeing" into people's hearts and souls and guiding sinners back to the faith.

Accessible

He devoted himself to a life of prayer and mortification, and yet he was accessible to everybody. Aside from ministering to people's souls, he did much to alleviate the miseries of many poor families with the foundation of the "Home for the Relief of Suffering." He was also known for his many charisms, which included prophecy and bilocation, but he tried to keep them away from the public eye.

Padre Pio helped literally hundreds of thousands of people on a personal basis. Thus, his funeral in 1968 drew an extraordinary number of mourners. Due to public clamor, the preparation for his cause of beatification was begun in 1969.

Padre Pio was proclaimed Venerable by Pope John Paul II in 1997. In 1999, he was proclaimed Blessed. And in June this year, he will be canonized as Saint—a speeded-up sequence of events because, in the eyes of many, Padre Pio had already demonstrated a number of saintly virtues while he was still alive.

Eddie Garcia stars in his first soap opera

By Jocelyn Valle

AFTER 53 years in the biz, Eddie Garcia is starring in his first soap opera, which is only his second regular TV show, ever (the first was a sitcom with Janno Gibbs called "Manoy en Mokong").

Good project

"No," the esteemed actor-director shakes his head, when asked if GMA 7 had a hard time convincing him to accept the offer. "Because it's a good project, with a good director, and a formidable cast. I feel honored that they chose me to be a part of the show."

In "Kung Mawawala Ka," Eddie plays Gov. Leandro Montemayor, a man who has three families. The first is made up of his "legit" wife Iluminada (played by Liza Lorena) and three kids (Princess Punzalan, Raymond Bagatsing and Alessandra de Rossi). The second is his first mistress Charina (Gloria Diaz) and two daughters (Ara Mina and Sharmaine Arnaiz). The third is with another mistress, Alicia (Hilda Koronel), and their only child, Rosa Camilla (Sunshine Dizon).

As explained to us by one of the soap's writers, Arnold Martinez (head writer is Roy Iglesias and creative consultant is Ruel Bayani), Leandro Montemayor is a shrewd businessman, with shipping as one of his many commercial interests. He's also given his families an enterprise (like a hotel or a restaurant) each.

Favorites

Alicia and Rosa Camilla are Leandro's favorites. He doesn't care about his first family anymore, and he's tired of gold-digger Charina. All family members' worlds start colliding when the patriarch is shot during his birthday party, is seriously injured.

Eddie shares that he didn't make any special preparations for his TV role. "*Parang gumagawa ka rin ng pelikula*," he explains. "*Pag-aaralan mo 'yung* type of role and you take it from there."

GARCIA. The character he plays has three families.

The discipline is something else, though. "*Iba kasi*, they tape the entire sequence continuously using several cameras, so you really have to memorize your lines," he points out. "Unlike in films, if you make a mistake, they can take another shot."

"In soaps," he continues, "time is very essential. *Kailangan matapos* in 12 hours *'yung* particular episode. Unlike in films *na kapag hindi natapos ang eksena*, 'OK, *p'wede nating ituloy 'yan bukas*.' It will cost the production a lot of money. If a one-day taping ay *naging* two days, *malaki na ang gastos d'yan*."

Good vs evil

He may not be a fan of soap operas but Eddie doesn't believe that the popular TV genre is espousing bad values. "*Hindi naman p'wedeng walang naaapi*," he justifies. "*D'yan pumapasok ang* good vs. evil aspect *sa* story, but usually at the end, the good triumphs.

EDDIE/ p.F4

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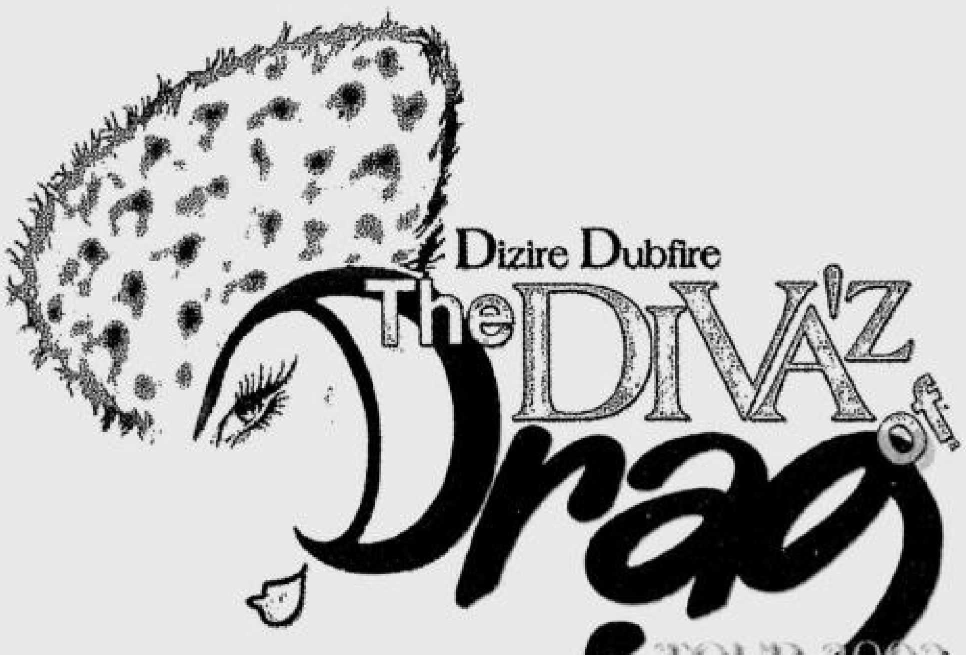

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Coping with eyestrain

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

DO you care for your eyes as you care for your face or skin? Or do you work your eyes to death till they ache and become red? Here are some pieces of good advice from Dr. Robert Abel Jr. on coping with eyestrain:

Conditions

"What does 'eyestrain' really mean? The achy sensation in the eyes that most people are describing when they say they've 'strained' their eyes can be caused by one of several conditions: (1) the inability of one or both eyes to focus well; (2) the inability of both eyes to track together; or (3) excessive continuous close work without a break.

"Only a good eye exam can determine whether both eyes are centered in the same place or, for example, if one of the six eye muscles is pulling on the eye a little differently from others and causing the two eyes to be non-aligned. Rarely, a more serious problem can lead to eyestrain-like symptoms or headache.

"Headaches around the eyes can also produce symptoms similar to those of eyestrain. Working under fluorescent lights can cause eyestrain as well as other problems, including migraine attacks.

"The symptoms of eyestrain, include redness, tearing, itching, swelling, burning, blurred vision, headaches, sensitivity to glare, difficulty adjusting to light, worsening of nearsightedness, and decreased concentration. Any of these symptoms can also be related to more serious diseases; each needs to be considered in the context in which it occurs.

Enclosed space

"Using your eyes intently for hours in an enclosed space without resting contributes not only to eyestrain but also to other health problems. When a person stares at one spot for a long period of time, the brain is focused on balancing everything—keeping the head, neck and other parts of the body from moving.

"These days, people stare most intently at the computer screen. This is particularly hard on the eyes, because they're not looking at the entire screen, but only at micro images on it. In contrast, when you watch TV, you're following a panorama on the screen, which doesn't require the brain to be so fixated or the body to be so restricted.

"Working at a computer for long periods at a time without a break can result in a condition called 'computer fatigue syndrome,' which encompasses a host of symptoms. At the same time, neck and back pain can also develop.

"It's important for anyone suffering from this ailment of modern life to take frequent breaks, focus on an object across the room, and remember to blink often. A 1997 study in the American Journal of Ophthalmology found that computer use is linked to decreased blinking, and, therefore, to the development of dry eye symptoms, which can exacerbate eyestrain.

Recommendations

"My recommendations for decreasing the eyestrain (and body strain you develop while working at your computer) include the following:

"Set up your computer correctly. The viewing distance from the screen to the eyes should be 17 to 26 inches. The correct viewing angle is 10 to 20 degrees from midscreen to the top of the screen.

"Adjust screen brightness and contrast properly.

"Make sure overall room illumination is no more than three times brighter than the screen.

"Control glare from overhead lights and uncurtained windows. Use an anti-glare screen, set up a partition, or move your terminal to an area where glare is less of a problem.

"Rest your feet firmly on the floor. The upper thighs should not touch the supporting surface of the desk or computer table.

"Farsightedness, nearsightedness, astigmatism, eye-focusing disorders, and poor eye coordination may all worsen from using a computer inappropriately. In fact, studies have shown that people develop a delayed relaxation of the pupil and of focus after six or more consecutive hours of computer work. These eye-fatiguing symptoms may be accumulating daily.

Common sense

"In most cases, simple eyestrain should be treated with a strong prescription of common sense. If you are developing headaches (even migraines) from working too long at your computer without taking a break, schedule regular breaks; set an alarm to remind yourself to take them, if necessary.

"If the lighting in your work area is bothering you, talk to your supervisor about modifying it . . . Unlike some eye conditions that are unavoidable, most cases of eyestrain can be prevented or eased by taking control of other aspects of life and work. Don't continue to suffer from an ailment that it is within your power to heal."

(Next week, find out how you can deal with headaches and migraine attacks.)

Aiza Seguerra waxes 'Sa Ugoy ng Duyan'

By Remy M. Umerez

A BEAUTIFUL cut in "Pinakamamahal," Aiza Seguerra's brand new album for Vicor is a legacy from national artists Lucio San Pedro and Levi Celerio: the timeless song, "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan."

San Pedro's mother served as the *maestro's* inspiration for producing this haunting lullaby. He dedicated the song to all mothers whose husbands left their homes to fight in the war.

Lyricist

On a trip to America, San Pedro met lyricist Levi Celerio in Honolulu, and he wrote the lyrics of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" while they were sailing back home a year later.

Pop divas like Kuh Ledesma, Regine Velasquez, Sharon Cuneta and Lea Salonga love the song very much and include it in their concert repertoire.

During the album launch of "Pinakamamahal," Aiza surprised the audience by singing the inspiring lullaby *a capella*. To date, Aiza is the youngest singer to breathe life into the song.

The inclusion of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" was made possible by Vicor executive MG Ocampo Mozo. Since the album deals with all aspects of love, MG asked album producer Margot Gallardo to accommodate "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" because it speaks of a mother's devotion to her child.

Touching

Aiza's version of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan" is so touching that it is requested whenever she performs.

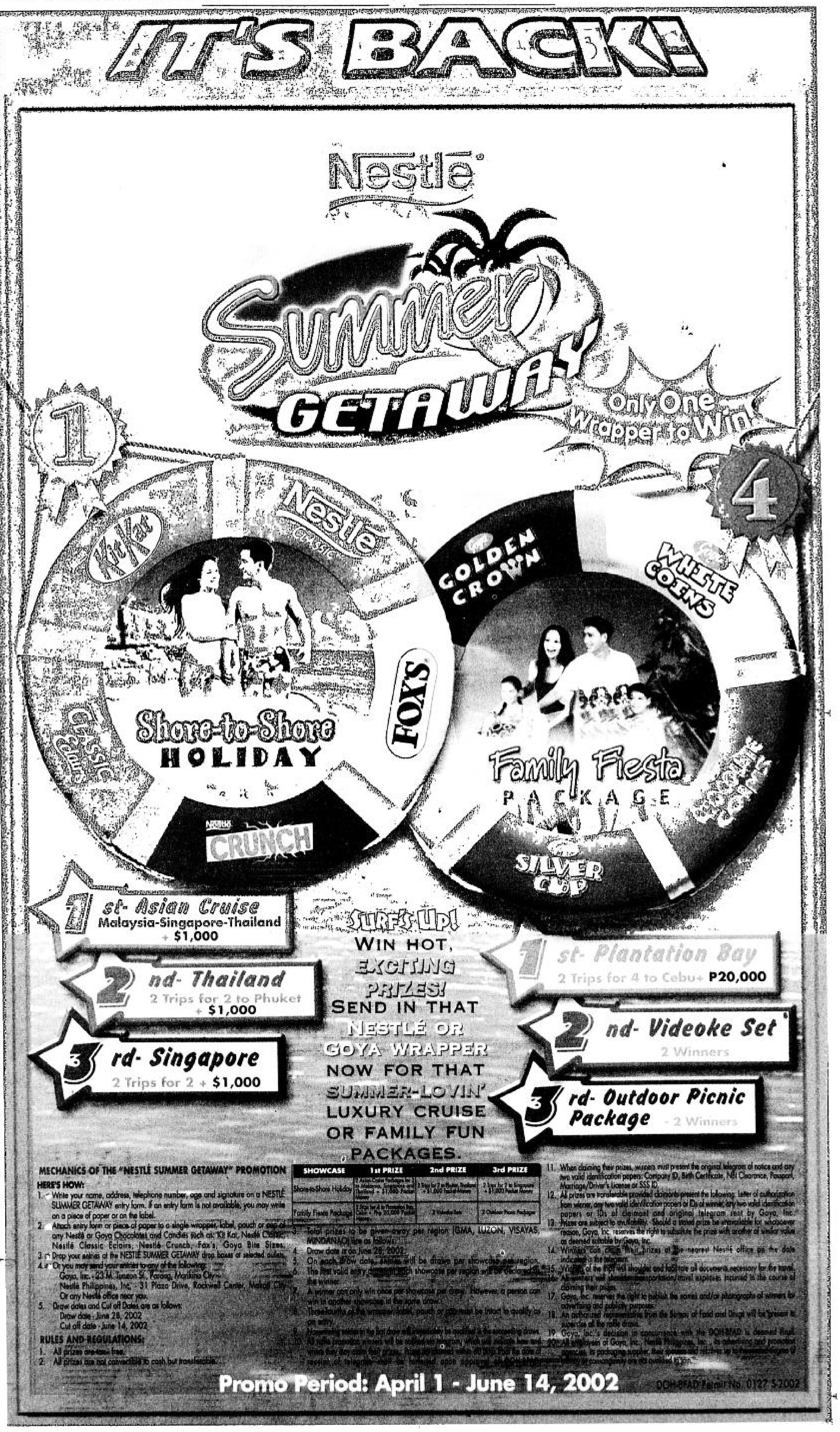
Here are the lyrics of "Sa Ugoy ng Duyan:"

Sana'y di magmaliw, ang dati kong araw
Nang munti pang bata, sa piling ni Nanay
Nais kong maulit, ang awit ni Inang mahal
Awit ng pag-ibig, habang ako'y nasa duyan.

Sa aking pagtulog na labis ang himbing
Ang bantay ko'y tala, ang tanod ko'y bituin
Sa piling ni Nanay langit ang buhay
Puso kong may dusa, sabik sa ugoy ng duyan.

Sana'y di magmaliw, ang dati kong araw
Nang munti pang bata, sa piling ni Nanay
Nais kong maulit, ang awit ni Inang mahal
Awit ng pag-ibig, habang ako'y nasa duyan.
Nais kong matulog, sa dating duyan ko, Inay
O, Inay.

AIZA with, from left, PARI president Danny Velasquez and Vicor president Steven Tan.



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3. Drop your entries at the NESTLÉ SUMMER GETAWAY drop boxes at selected outlets.
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   Or any Nestlé office near you.
5. Draw dates and Cut off Dates are as follows:
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1. All prizes are tax free.
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Family Fiesta Package	2 Trips for 4 to Plantation Bay, Cebu + Php 20,000 Pocket Money	2 Videoke Sets	2 Outdoor Picnic Packages

3. Total prizes to be given away per region (GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS, MINDANAO) are as follows:
4. Draw date is on June 28, 2002.
5. On each draw date, [illegible] will be drawn per showcase per region.
6. The first valid entry [illegible] each showcase per region will be declared the winner.
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8. Three-fourths of the wrapper, label, pouch or [illegible] must be intact to qualify as an entry.
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13. Prizes are subject to availability. Should a stated prize be unavailable for whatsoever reason, Goya, Inc. reserves the right to substitute the prize with another of similar value as deemed suitable by Goya, Inc.
14. Winners can claim their prizes at the nearest Nestlé office on the date indicated in the telegram.
15. [illegible] all documents necessary for the travel.
16. All winners will shoulder transportation/travel expenses incurred in the course of claiming their prizes.
17. Goya, Inc. reserves the right to publish the names and/or photographs of winners for advertising and publicity purposes.
18. An authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs will be present to supervise all the raffle draws.
19. Goya, Inc.'s decision in concurrence with the DOH-BFAD is deemed final.
20. All employees of Goya, Inc., Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotion agencies, its packaging supplier, their spouses and relatives up to [illegible] degree of affinity or consanguinity are not qualified to join.

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DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0127 S.2002

No misdeeds in Winona Ryder security tape, report shows

RYDER. Charged with theft and vandalism.

LOS ANGELES—A surveillance tape of Winona Ryder's shopping spree that led to shoplifting charges does not show the actress using scissors to clip security tags from merchandise, as prosecutors have alleged, the Los Angeles Times reported last week.

Felony counts

Ryder, who was arrested Dec. 12 at a Saks Fifth Avenue department store in Beverly Hills, was charged in February with felony counts of theft, burglary, vandalism and possession of a pain reliever without a prescription.

At the time the charges were filed, the district attorney's office issued a news release quoting police as saying Ryder had been seen on a closed-circuit camera using scissors to clip security tags from merchandise.

The Times said no scenes involving scissors were shown on the tape. The paper did not say how it came to view the tape.

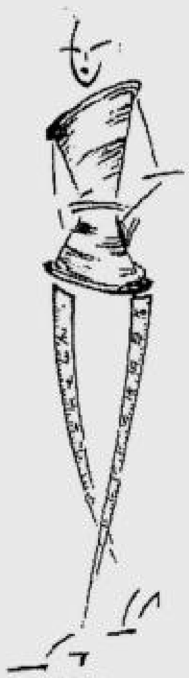
"Contrary to the public perception, this tape exonerates her," said Ryder's lawyer, Mark Geragos. "I'd say this is a prosecution, interrupted."

Security officers

Beverly Hills police have said store security officers saw Ryder remove security tags from several items, place them in her bag and leave the store.

The newspaper said the tape does show Ryder donning a black hat and riding an escalator with it on at one point. The price tag is visible on the hat when she enters a dressing room, the newspaper said, but can't be seen when she emerges 15 minutes later.

The star of such films as "Girl, Interrupted," "Heathers" and "Edward Scissorhands" is free on $20,000 bail. The tape is to be shown at her preliminary hearing. *AP*



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Rosie O'Donnell speaks up for gay parents

By Steve Gorman

LOS ANGELES—Talk show host Rosie O'Donnell, publicly discussing her homosexuality for the first time, said her own experience as a gay parent proved that the state of Florida and President George W. Bush are "wrong" in their opposition to gay adoption.

Mother

"I don't think America knows what a gay parent looks like," O'Donnell, the mother of three adopted children, told correspondent Diane Sawyer in a televised interview to air on the ABC News program "Primetime Thursday." "I am the gay parent."

O'Donnell, who turns 40 this month, said she was moved to openly discuss her sexuality and motherhood after reading about the case of Steve Lofton and Roger Croteau, a gay couple suing the state of Florida to overturn its ban on gay adoption.

"I'm saying it now because I want people to know that I'm the kind of parent the state of Florida . . . thinks is unworthy, and it's wrong," she said, according to excerpts of the interview provided by ABC News.

Asked by Sawyer what she thought about President Bush's statement that children ought to be adopted in families with a woman and a man who are married, O'Donnell replied, "Well, he's wrong. President Bush is wrong about that." "If . . . he and his wife are invited to come spend a weekend at my house with my children . . . I'm sure his mind would change."

Six-year stint

Her interview comes just weeks before the former stand-up comic and actress plans to end her six-year stint as host of "The Rosie O'Donnell Show" in order to spend more time with her adopted children—two boys and a girl—Parker, 6, Chelsea, 4, and Blake, 2.

She described her kids as "well-adjusted" and "happy," though she acknowledged they will likely be teased for having a gay mom and that it probably "would be easier for them if I were married to a man."

O'Donnell said if she had to choose between having her children "go through the struggles of being gay in America, or being heterosexual? I would say heterosexual."

She added, "if I could take a pill to make myself straight, I wouldn't do it, because I am who I am, and I've come to this point in my life, and I'm very happy, you know. But it's a lot easier in the world to be heterosexual than it is to be gay."

O'Donnell said bias against gay adoption exists because of the widely held perception that "the gay lifestyle is a lot of party, pretty boys and South Beach dancing."

Priority

"But those are generally not the people who are applying to adopt," she said. "It's people who are settled who know that the priority in their life is to have a family."

While the interview marked her first public acknowledgement that she is a lesbian, O'Donnell said she never sought to keep her sexuality a secret.

The star said she waited this long to go public, in part, because she wanted to be "in a committed, long-term relationship."

O'DONNELL. Well-adjusted kids.

O'Donnell and her current companion have been together about four years, she said.

Asked about past comments that she found actor Tom Cruise attractive, O'Donnell said there was nothing wrong with gay people being able to "appreciate the aesthetic beauty of somebody of the other gender.

"He makes my heart beat, and I adore him, gay, straight, or somewhere in between," she said of Cruise. "He is the (most) perfect man that ever walked the face of the Earth." *Reuters*

Eddie Garcia stars in his first soap opera

From page F2

But kanya-kanyang opinion *'yan.*"

"Kung Mawawala Ka" has just started, so Eddie hasn't gained insights from his latest acting challenge. You see, he makes it a point to learn from every role that he takes. "An actor should not stop learning," he stresses.

Instructively, Eddie has never been in a rut since he started working as an actor 53 years ago. "Because I've always considered acting a job," he elucidates. "I love to be an actor and a director, that's why I'm in this business. The moment I don't find it a challenge anymore, I'd probably do something else. *Trabaho lang ito.* I don't consider it a highfalutin job, nothing special."

Luck

Eddie doesn't credit luck for his success and longevity in show business. "This is a product of 53 years of hard work," he observes with pride.

If a wannabe actor asked for his advice, what would he tell him? "Be professional about everything," he readily replies. "Be punctual. Make sure to come to the set prepared. Don't give your costars and directors headaches."

Though Eddie never taught formally in school, he has inspired a lot of industry players. "Kung Mawawala Ka" costars Raymond Bagatsing, Princess Punzalan and Cogie Domingo are only three examples.

Honor

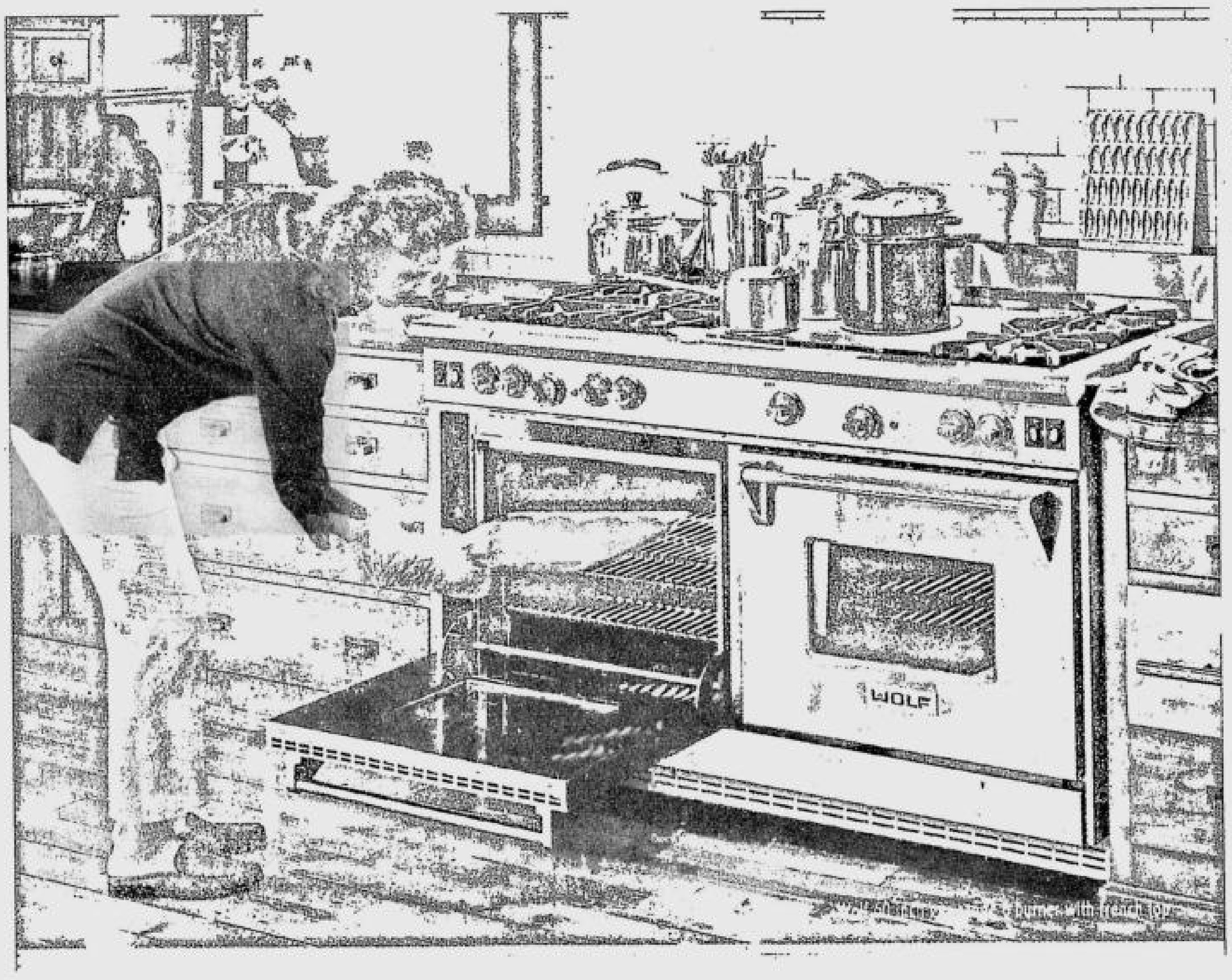
"It's an honor working with him," beams Raymond, who's acting opposite Eddie for the first time. "I've always respected him. *Nakikita ko sa* demeanor *niya, 'yung pagiging* polite *niya.* He's really a man to respect."

Raymond admits to being overwhelmed by the veteran actor. "But I didn't let it affect me," he grins. "I tried to fight my nervousness so I could give a credible performance."

Princess was more relaxed when she walked into the set of "Kung Mawawala Ka" for the soap's first taping day. Though it's been a decade since she first worked with Eddie in a movie, she can't forget how professional he is. She's tried to emulate him, in fact.

Cogie, on the other hand, is excited to be in the same production with Eddie again, after 2000's "Death Row." The teen star's character doesn't belong to the Montemayor clan (but he will eventually be involved with Rosa Camilla), that's why the young and veteran actors haven't taped a scene together yet.

When that happens, Cogie is positive that he'll be cool about it. "*Hindi ako masyadong kakabahan kasi mabait naman siya,*" he avers. "*Nakikihalo siya sa amin. Minsan, sama-sama kami* after taping."



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Former teen star returns with adult sound

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—When Brandy plops down on a chair in her hotel suite, preparing for a morning of picture-taking and interviews, a sour look suddenly comes over her face.

Baby

It's not the day ahead that's upsetting her; it's the baby inside.

BRANDY. No longer a goofy teenager.

"The baby's turning and it's making me queasy," says the 23-year-old singer-actress, rubbing her protruding belly. A newlywed, she's expecting her first child, a girl, in July.

The image of a grown-up Brandy as wife and mother is something new for those who remember her as the teen-ager who rose to music stardom with fluffy hits like "Sittin' Up In My Room," "Baby" and the Grammy-winning "The Boy is Mine." Or as the good-girl title character in the UPN broadcasting network's first sitcom, "Moesha."

But it's clear that Brandy is no kid anymore.

Besides new family duties, the singer has returned to the limelight with a new album, "Full Moon," which showcases her evolution into a young woman. The trademark braids are gone, and her look is sexier. (In the video for the disc's first hit, "What About Us," she wears tight leather and a plunging neckline.)

"She's not a goofy teen-ager anymore—she's a beautiful woman," says Emil Wilbekin, editor-in-chief at Vibe, which features her on its April cover.

Confidence

Whereas once, Brandy talked like a schoolgirl, now she speaks with confidence and authority.

She says she finally feels comfortable in her own skin.

"I was very dependent on people, and there was a certain part of me that didn't want to be dependent anymore," she says. "I was very clinging, and I needed to just be my own person. I wavered in my decisions, I people-pleased . . . I was very insecure."

Brandy Norwood first gained recognition at 14 as the smart, sassy daughter on the short-lived ABC sitcom "Thea." When that was canceled after one season, the child star turned to her first love—singing—and scored instant success with a self-titled album that went platinum and helped create the teen music craze in the late '90s.

Commercials

She also made commercials for Cover Girl, starred in TV movies like "Cinderella," and made her feature film debut in "I Still Know What You Did Last Summer."

But success brought self-doubt instead of confidence. Brandy wondered if people wanted to be around her just because of her fame.

In addition, her hit television show was the source of tension and gossip: Rumors flew that Brandy did not get along with some cast members. And she and her mother, Sonja Norwood, were criticized when they pushed to make the show more gritty.

As for her mother—who has been depicted as the overbearing stage mother—Brandy says: "My mom has taken a lot of heat for things that she's not guilty of . . . She happens to not be intimidated by anyone. She's not going to let you take advantage of her daughter or her son or her husband or anybody that she has love for."

Sonja Norwood manages the careers of her daughter; son, Ray J; and husband, Willie Norwood, who put out his debut disc last year.

In 1999, at the height of Brandy's success, the star was hospitalized briefly for exhaustion and dehydration. Some reports had her collapsing on the set—false rumors, Brandy says, that were spread by her co-workers.

Rumors

"That's one of the reasons why I wasn't too happy on 'Moesha,' because there were a lot of rumors that were accumulating that weren't true," she says.

The hospitalization did cause the Norwoods to reassess Brandy's hectic schedule.

"It was like, 'No, it doesn't matter how much she wants to do, from this point, she's going to take a break,'" says Sonja Norwood. "But I don't think I had to enforce that because she did it on her own. She decided, 'I'm going to take care of myself.'"

Brandy says she had been feeling "a lot of

FORMER / P. G2

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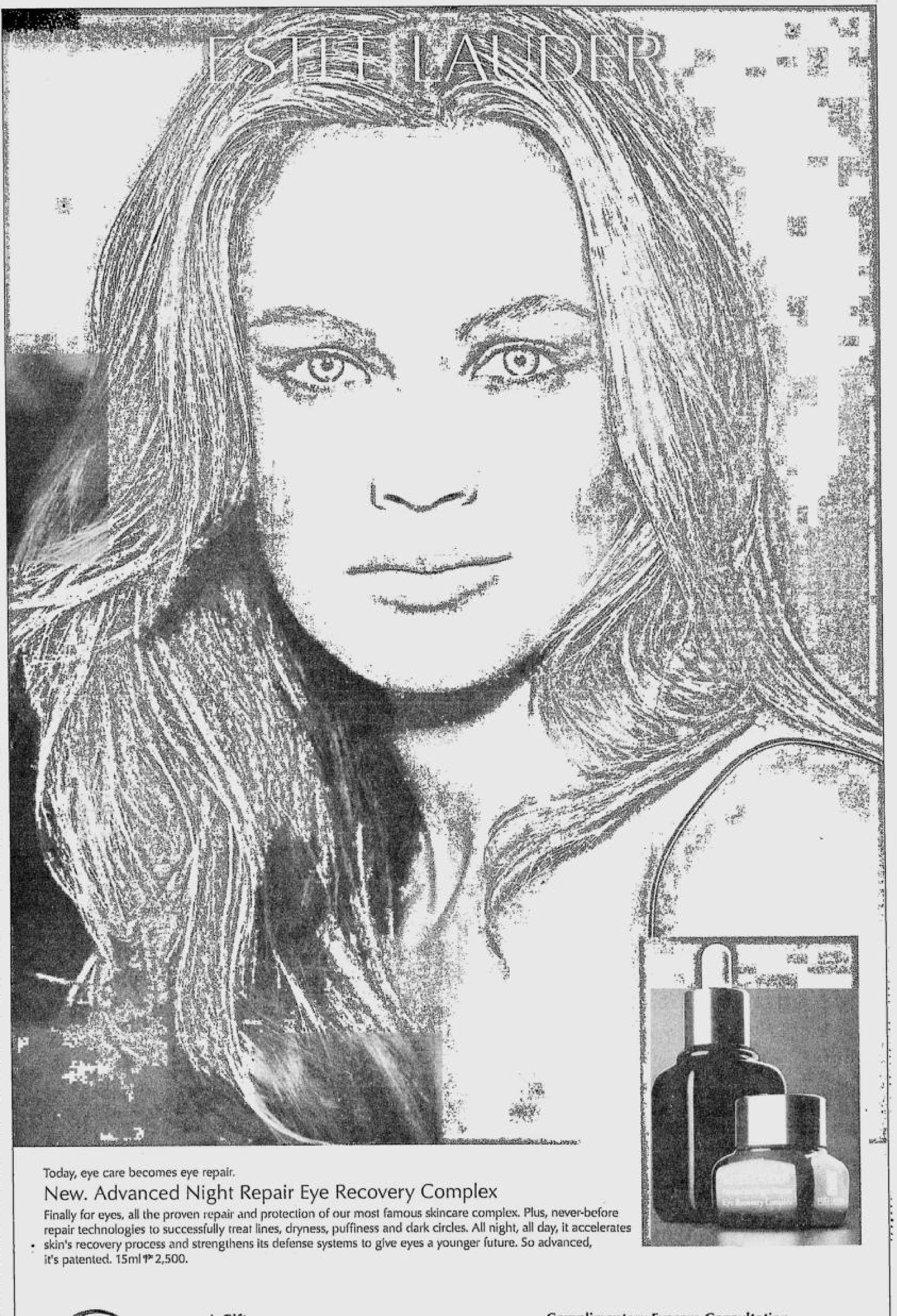

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M2M's Marit and Marion play pop stars

M2M. Expressing themselves comes naturally.

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

MARIT Larsen and Marion Raven met in a small town Oslo, Norway at the age of 5. They released a children's record and were nominated for the Norwegian Grammy awards. They acted in musicals like "Annie," "The Sound of Music," "Bugsy Malone," and the "Wizard of Oz." Their single, "Don't Say You Love Me" got a big boost from a tie up with a Pokemon movie.

Latest album

They co-wrote most of the songs in their latest album, "The Big Room." "The fist song I wrote was 'Girl in Your Dreams.' I was 13 and this song was about this boy I met. The song shows that young people can also fall in love. I was sitting in my room studying for a history test when I wrote that song," Marit shares.

They have been to Thailand, Hong Kong, Korea and Manila to promote their album. They feel lucky about their popularity. "It's cool to be 18 and say that you've been to 22 countries. Unfortunately, it's not like we get to see all the places. But we get a really good idea where we can go back for a vacation," Marit observes.

Promotional tours

Shopping and visiting beaches make their promotional tours more exciting. What do they look for when they're shopping? "Good jeans! I love jeans. Not too many shoes because they take up too much space in the suitcase," Marion shares.

"I look for cool T-shirts," Marit confesses.

Listening to "The Big Room" makes you aware that Marit and Marion have matured quite fast. Thus their music has depth and wisdom. "Our music has matured as much as we have. We recorded and wrote the last song in 1998, so it was a while ago. It's a natural thing that's happened, us getting better, evolving in our songwriting and instrument playing. And vocally, we have our own style. It's us," Marit shares.

Expressing themselves comes naturally to them. Sharing their thoughts and feelings through their music does not bother them at all. Exposing themselves to the world is a given. Nope, they're not ashamed to share themselves with their audience.

"We leave out details and names when we write our songs. So some things remain private," Marion grins.

"There are a bunch of songs you don't necessarily put on record," Marit adds.

Personal

"Some songs are really personal. It's a way of sharing yourself with people. It's perfect for me. When I read something in a magazine that says they hate our song, it makes me sad. I guess that's the bad part of sharing your songs."

M2M would like to collaborate with British-pop artist Travis. "Playing with Travis would be a dream come true. I'd like to write a song with him. Playing live with him would be cool," Marit smiles.

How do they motivate themselves to be inspired all the time? Do they have boyfriends?

"No. We stick to what we love and that's our music. Our music keeps us going when we're tired or bored. Seeing people appreciate our music inspires us," Marion says.

What was it like touring with the Hansons? "It was great!" They were one of our favorite bands so it was wonderful touring with them because we got to see a great concert everyday. They're great people and really talented. We love their music!"

Pretty and not so pretty faces light up our TV, film screens

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

PRETTY young things dominate the boob-tube and the big screen. In fact, we are not just talking about promising twenty-*somethings* like Jessica Alba and Katherine Heigl, but ten-*somethings* like Emma Watson and Rupert Grint, as well. And, oh, we also have the not-so-pretty Betty Solano *and* her pretty alter-ego, Ana Maria Orozco, this week. However, we regret to inform our readers that this column *does not* give away pictures of celebrities, pretty or not-so-pretty though they may be.

Write us: Philippine Daily Inquirer, Saturday Special section, Showbiz Q&A, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo sts., Makati City.

This week's Q and A:

"I am a big fan of 'Dark Angel's' Jessica Alba and Roswell's Katherine Heigl. How did they start out in show biz? Have they appeared on the big screen?" – *Frederick Brondial, SFDM, Quezon City*

Jessica Marie Alba was born on April 28, 1981 in California. She moved around a lot as a child because of her father's job in the Air Force. The family finally settled in Southern California when she was nine.

In her film debut (1994's "Camp Nowhere," with Christopher Lloyd), she was originally hired as an extra, but ended up playing a lead role when an actress dropped out. Nope, it wasn't her charm or her talent that got her the role—*it was her hair*! The director decided that it matched the original actress' hair. Come again?

Commercials

The role *did* get her noticed. She then did commercials for Nintendo, among others, before landing a recurring role on "The Secret World of Alex Mack." She got noticed early on in her career for performance role in "Flipper" and more recently, in "Dark Angel" as the genetically-enhanced Max/X-5 452. She won TV Guide's "Breakout Star of 2001" nod for "Dark Angel." Then, Golden Globe awarded her a Best Actress in a TV Series (Drama) nomination last year for the same show.

On the beauty side, the 5'7" looker (mother is French-Danish, father is Mexican-Indian) was voted number one on Maxim's Hot 100 Babes list. She was also seen in Drew Barrymore's "Never Been Kissed" and Devon Sawa's "Idle Hands" in 1999, and "The Sleeping Dictionary" last year. She was engaged to "Dark Angel" co-star Michael Weatherly in May last year.

Another "Marie," Katherine Marie Heigl was born on November 24, 1978 in Connecticut. The statuesque (5'9") blonde was a child model for Sears. Soon enough, she was hired by the Elite Modeling Agency before she started making movies. She debuted in the moving drama, "King of the Hill," then won the lead role of Gerard Depardieu's daughter in "My Father the Hero."

Variety of roles

She chalked up a variety of roles in silly and quirky movies: "Under Siege 2" (with Steven Seagal), "Wish Upon A Star," "Prince Valiant," "Bride of Chucky," "100 Girls" and in last year's "Valentine," with David Boreanaz (of TV's "Angel"). *Whew*! Lots of *scary* movies there, genre-wise *and* quality-wise! Kathie did manage to snag a Saturn Award (for sci-fi) nomination for "Roswell."

She auditioned for all three female leads in "Roswell" before she landed the role of Isabel. This half-Irish, half-German beauty began dating Joey Lawrence in 1994.

Guess whom she beat out for her role in "My Father the Hero"? Alicia Silverstone!

"I am a huge fan of the telenovela, 'Betty La Fea.' Please feature the lead star's short bio, and a photo of what she really looks like." – *Candy Garcia, Cavite City*

OROZCO. Daughter of a former matinee idol.

The character of Beatriz Aurora Pinzon Solano, Betty to her admirers, in "Betty La Fea" (GMA-7, M-F/11:30 a.m. to 12 noon) is portrayed by Colombian actress Ana Maria Orozco. Born on July 4, 1973 in Sta. Fe de Bogota, Colombia, she is the daughter of a former matinee idol, so performing has always been in her genes. Her older sister, Veronica, is also an actress.

She is married, not to leading man Jorge Enrique Abello (who plays "Armando Mendoza" in the series), but to actor Julian Arango, who plays Hugo Lombardi in "Yo Soy Betty, La Fea." She has appeared in other soaps: 1993's "La Potra Zaina," "Tiempos Dificiles," and "Perros Amor."

The series finale created quite a stir in the US in May last year, feted for the show's (initially) feminist message, a rarity in the world of telenovelas, in which an ugly but smart woman navigates through and conquers a world where beauty is generally all that matters. When it started airing, the critics raved about its social message: "Beauty is only skin-deep," a message different from what society, in general, adheres to—it equates female success with being beautiful *and* married.

Predictable note

The critics were, of course, disappointed when the soap ended on a predictable note. But, the ending allowed its creators to come up with a "sequel"—"Eco Moda," where Orozco is already "Mrs. Mendoza." We wouldn't be surprised if this, too, will be shown here, given the first series' popularity.

"I want to know more about my favorites: Daniel Radcliffe, Tom Felton, Emma Watson and the kid who played Ron Weasley. How were they discovered? Have they acted in movies before "Harry Potter"? – *Mercy Grace Santik, Isabel, Leyte.*

Former teen star . . .

(From page G1)

stress, and it almost killed me."

The breakdown, she says, taught her that "it's very wise for me to pay attention to what goes on in my body, as well as what goes on in my life, period."

A vegan now, she doesn't eat products that aren't natural. And she tends toward the spiritual, talking about the importance of serenity and connecting with people's "energy."

It's one of many reasons why Brandy considered "Moesha's" cancellation a blessing.

"I would have been very disappointed if they picked it up again actually because I wouldn't be able to do what I'm doing now, which is my music."

Third album

On "Full Moon," her third album, Brandy reconnected with Rodney Jerkins, who produced her second album, the multi-platinum "Never Say Never." It took her a year and a half to finish "Full Moon," which features the kind of sensual material she shied away from in her teens.

Jerkins called the difference between the two albums "night and day."

"Now, she's more verbal in what she wants to do and she's more instrumental in her music," he said.

Wilbekin, of Vibe, said the album's "subject matter is more adult. She's definitely been through a lot of kind of emotional growth, a lot of love and breakups, and I think that she has found herself more on this album."

AP

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM APRIL 13 – APRIL 19

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	[illegible]
	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:00 Arriba, Arriba 8:00 Mary D' Potter 9:00 Da Pilya en Da Pilot 10:00 Kakasa Ka Ba? 10:30 Sapul Kayo Dyan 11:00 "F" 11:30 Sports Unlimited	6:00 MBA 11:00 Business and Leisure	6:30 Wing Commander 7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Celebrity Family Feud 8:30 Wow Mali! 9:30 Saturday Night Specials *Wow I and II*	5:30 Pokemon 6:00 Imbestigador 7:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:00 Kakabakaba 9:00 Pinoy Blockbuster 11:00 Master Showman Presents	6:00 Star Trek 7:00 Special Unit II 8:00 Strange World 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse *50th Famas Awards*	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 IBC Elorde	7:00 Explorer 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Gilmore Girls 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	3:00 Q Show Case 7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 Nearly Famous *Vegas Show Girls #2* 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Michael London* 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Celebrity Profile
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Digimon 7:30 Wansapanataym 9:00 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 ABS-CBN Presents 11:30 Off The Record 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 Fox News 9:00 NBA 11:30 Unlimited Diving	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guyferd 7:00 Price is Right 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 The Big Night *Grammy Awards (Part 2)* 11:00 Fashion TV	5:30 Partners Mel and Jay 7:00 K! 8:00 Daddy Di Do Du 9:00 Sunday Night Box Office 11:00 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Entertainment This Weekend 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event *Mercury Rising* 11:00 Ugnayan	4:00 PBA Game 1 6:00 PBA Game 2 8:00 Star For a Night 9:00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 10:00 Sinemaks	6:00 Rugrats 6:30 Starship Troopers 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Futurama 8:00 Grosse Pointe 8:30 Veronica's Closet 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 Temptation Island 10:30 Twilight Zone 11:00 News Central	5:00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night Movies 11:00 Bikini Open	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! Coming Attractions 7:00 E! Special *Cruise & Cruz Vanilla Sky* 8:00 *Penelope Cruz* 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner *Julia Roberts* 10:00 E! News Weekend 10:30 E! Coming Attractions
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 FPJ Action Cinema 10:30 Headlines 11:00 The Correspondents	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Formula 1 Racing	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 F 7:00 Mahha Go Go Go 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Poltergeist: The Legacy 9:30 Trabaho Lang 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Two	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 GMA's Best 10:30 Front Page 11:00 I-Witness	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 World's Most Amazing Videos 8:00 Jag 9:00 Sons of Thunder 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Sex & The City	5:30 Viva Music Channel 6:30 Viva Box Office 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Beat UK 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Hidden Camera 8:00 Dark Angel 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Points of View 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story *Corey Feldman* 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 E! Special *AJ After Hours Episode 2* 11:00 Wild On *Ibiza*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Oka Tokat 9:30 Attagirl 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Pipol	6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 Pulsong Masa 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Dragon League 7:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 E.R. 9:30 Urban Doktor 10:00 The Big News 10:00 Mad TV	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kool Ka Lang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 The Probe Team	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:30 NBI Files	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Storytellers 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Popular 8:30 Angel 9:30 Just Shoot Me 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Mira Nair* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Whattamen 9:30 Klasmeyts 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Private Conversation	4:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 6:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Pygmalio 7:00 Time Quest 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Friends 9:00 That '70s Show 9:30 Planet X 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Philippines Most Wanted	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Beh Bola Nga 10:30 Front Page 11:30 Jessica Soho Reports	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Higher Ground 8:00 Roswell 9:00 Fugitive 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight 11:00 Wrestling	9:00 The Weakest Link 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:00 Behind The Music 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Scariest Places 8:30 Game Plan 9:00 The District 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:00 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Sunshine State*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Maalaala Mo Kaya 10:30 Headlines 11:00 Isyu 101	4:00 Value Vision 6:00 Concert At The Park 7:00 Fox News 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 NBA	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Shulato 7:00 Fancy Lala 7:30 Wheel of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Guinnes World Records 9:30 The Exchange 10:00 The Big News 10:30 By Request *Celine Dion*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Kasangga 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Debate with Mare at Pare	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 Clueless 7:30 Sister, Sister 8:00 Felicity 9:00 Once and Again 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Entertainment Tonight	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 MYX Concerts 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Barkada Nights 9:30 Night Visions 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan 10:00 Q Showcase	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close-Up *Monica Bellucí* 8:00 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *South Seas*
	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7:30 Sa Puso Ko, Iingatan Ka 8:00 Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan 8:30 Game K N B? 9:00 Star Cinema Presents 10:30 Headlines 11:00 True Crime	6:00 PBL Chairman's Cup 8:00 Tele-Dyaryo 10:00 PBL Chairman's Cup	6:00 Balitang-Balita 6:30 Lazer Patrol 7:00 Starcom 7:30 Wheel Of Fortune 8:00 Family Feud 8:30 Ispup 9:30 On-Air 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Friday Box Office *Blue Tiger*	6:00 Saksi 6:30 Sana ay Ikaw Na Nga 7:00 Hunter X Hunter 7:30 Dragonball Z 8:00 Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin 8:30 Monica Brava 9:00 Bubble Gang 10:30 Front Page 11:00 Emergency	5:30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6:00 Sin Ti 6:30 Real TV 7:00 That's Life 8:00 Malcolm In the Middle 8:30 Dharma & Greg 9:00 NYPD Blue 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 TV Greats on Friday *Side A back to back w/ Freestyle*	8:00 Habang May Buhay 9:00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire 10:00 Carita de Angel 10:30 Por Un Beso 11:00 IBC News	5:30 Halo-Halo 6:30 Jenny Jones 7:30 Exposed 8:30 Survivor 9:30 Oh Grow Up! 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Pop My MYX	4:30 Quartermaster 6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6:00 CBS Evening News 6:30 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes *Crossroads* 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 9:30 Talk Soup 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On *Riviera*

Giselle Sanchez performs at Casino Filipino on April 17

By Edmund L. Sicam

SEXY comedienne Giselle Sanchez has what it takes to be a bold star but prefers the world of comedy where she is able to show her naughty streak without disrobing for the cameras. On April 17 at 9 p.m., Giselle performs at Casino Filipino Parañaque gaming area in a Metroface production titled "The Sexiest Link."

Tagaytay show

She is no stranger to casino players since she has visited most of its branches in the country. Just recently, she teamed up with the late Diomedes Maturan at Casino Filipino Tagaytay where, she said, the audience was made up mostly of Diomedes fans. They didn't seem to recognize Giselle but she gave them a good show anyway.

While the comic has done her share of supporting roles in movies (she was in the recent Andrew E movie "Burlesk King") and guests regularly on television sitcoms, she prefers to concentrate on live shows, mostly for corporate functions like product launches, alumni homecomings, and golf tournaments. "*Tumatanggap din ako ng* boy scout jamborees, first communion, eyebrow tattooing *at labada kung Linggo*," she says half seriously. In fact, she has had to turn down some movie offers because they conflicted with her concert schedule which takes her not just all over the country but also all over the world.

Busy

How busy is her schedule? Once she had a concert in Cebu City, flew to San Francisco right after and traveled another hour to get to the performance venue where her show was scheduled to start in one hour. The next three days, she was also booked in other venues on the West Coast.

But that's nothing compared to what happened to her in Davao.

"I hosted a campaign in Tagum, which is two hours away from Davao City," she recalls. "I had to be in Davao City by 2:25 p.m. because I was the last performer for the 'MTB' Davao special at Insular Hotel. I had to do a beach number wearing a two-piece yellow polka-dot bikini. At 2:10 p.m., our vehicle was stuck in traffic. I asked a man on a motorcycle if he could get

GISELLE/ P. G4

Once she had a concert in Cebu City, flew to San Francisco right after and traveled another hour to get to her show's venue

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A fusion of Ateneo and UP education at Thomas More College

With tuition increasing almost every year, not all high school graduates can afford the best education offered by the country's leading colleges and universities. Others are even compelled to forego schooling because of financial difficulties. Now, there's a new college in Quezon City primarily built to make quality education more affordable. For those who want to enjoy a fusion of Ateneo de Manila and University of the Philippines education, there is Thomas More College of Computer and Business to consider.

Thomas More College aims to provide better opportunities to students by providing flexible tuition payment schemes and scholarship grants. It is also the first to extend tuition waivers to as much as 30 percent to qualified children of government employees and members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP).

In the meantime, since Thomas More College is yet to open this coming schoolyear, scholarship grants and tuition discounts can only be awarded to a limited number of students. "Thus, as a group, we decided to focus our meager resources on the children of public servants. Remember, Thomas More was the ultimate public servant," explains lawyer and banker Paolo Magpale, one of the founders of Thomas More College. Paolo and his partners look forward to elicit the support of the private sector to extend more scholarship grants to less fortunate but deserving students.

Unlike other colleges with tri-semestral terms, Thomas More College offers courses such as B.S. in Information Technology, B.S. in Information Management, B.S. in Computer Science, B.S. in Business Administration and Associate in Computer Technology in two semesters per year. This will unburden the parents from paying for an additional semester. Thomas More College is also confident on the expertise of its professors and its relevant and comprehensive curricula so an additional semester is no longer necessary. The faculty is composed of Ateneo and UP academicians and business practitioners who are committed to produce a new breed of students and professionals.

"Thomas More College was not borne out of a desire to make money. If, as a result of all my efforts, the college just breaks even but is able to produce graduates desired by employers because of their integrity and diligence, then I will feel like a billionaire many times over," shares Magpale.

Thomas More College may look like an ordinary school but beyond its walls are loads of modern facilities and equipment to complement its well-prepared curricula and innovative teaching methodologies. As Thomas More College is authorized to be a Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) testing, it will be more convenient for the school to upgrade its hardware, software, and network technologies. The school also houses fully equipped physics and computer laboratories with brand new workstations.

From L –R: Thomas More College founders Paolo Magpale, AA Aquino, Nikki Reyes, and Kakai Manotoc aim to make a difference in education.

Interested applicants are invited to take the assessment examinations conducted from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. every Saturday until May at the Thomas More College campus. The assessment exams are designed to help the students determine the course that best suits them. For inquiries, call 372-6652 or 372-3269 or visit Thomas More College at Reza Building along Quezon Avenue (in front of Delta Theatre).

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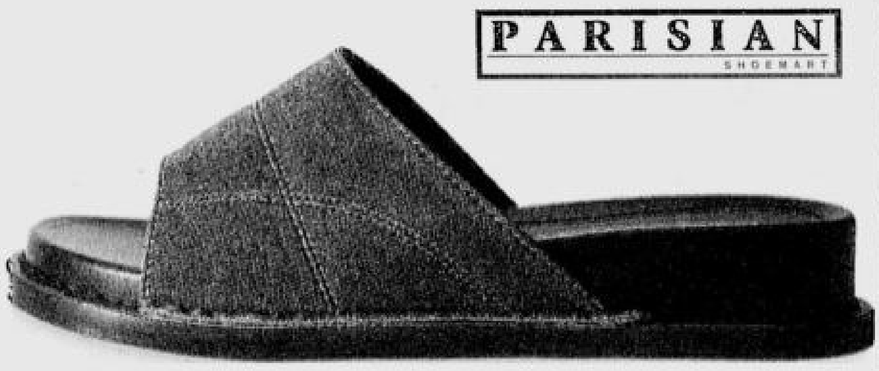

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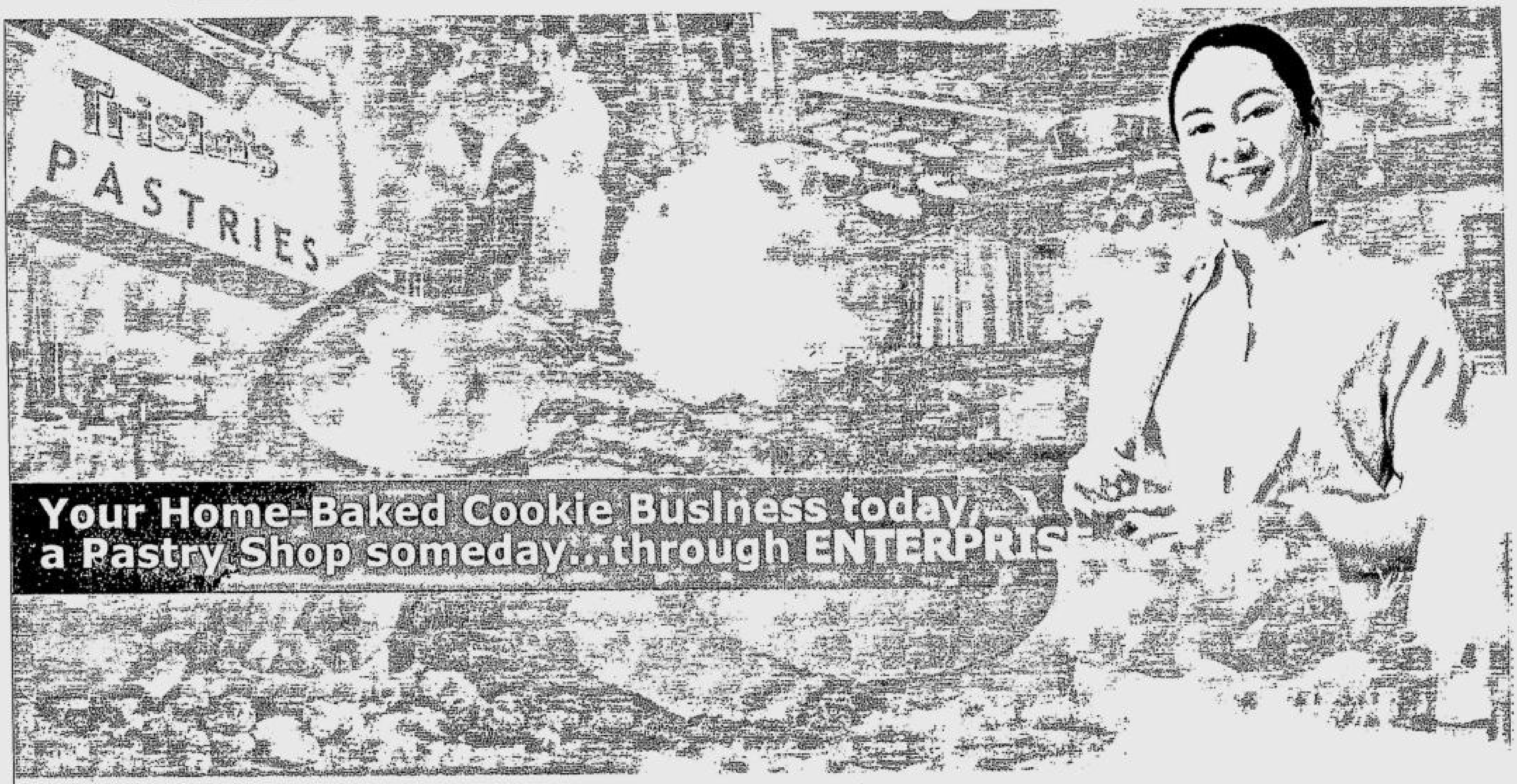
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Meet two new female film stars in the making

By Nestor U. Torre

WITH the world movie audience "youthening" all the time, movie producers feel compelled to discover, build up and showcase new stars in film productions carefully conceptualized to give them a strong boost to big-screen stardom.

Examples

In Hollywood, examples include comedian Jack Black ("Shallow Hal") and Tom Hanks' son, and heir, Colin, who got introduced on TV and is about to make his big bid as a movie star.

On the distaff side, two new female stars have been found in "Snow Dogs" Joanna Bacalso and "The Count of Monte Cristo's" Dagmara Dominczyk.

Joanna is a fresh-faced Fil-American talent who has previously played supporting roles in films like "Bedazzled" and "Dude, Where's My Car?"

In "Snow Dogs," the relative newcomer is cast as Barb, the Alaska native who teaches Ted, the film's protagonist (played by Cuba Gooding Jr.), how to obtain the obedience and allegiance of a mischievous team of sled dogs.

Big break

Producer Jordan Kerner reveals why he decided to give Joanna her big break: "We wanted Barb to be like a barmaid from a classic '50s western-tough as nails, doesn't take guff from anyone, can kick any man out of her bar. And Joanna can certainly play all that."

For her part, Joanna likes the character she's playing in the movie because "she doesn't take crap from anyone. And yet she's really caring and has got a heart of gold, without being weepy. She's realistic."

Transition

Joanna easily made the transition from a modeling career to TV and film. Her modeling work included both print and runway, from Miami to Milan, for clients ranging from Tommy Hilfiger to Banana Republic.

Her television credits include guest-starring appearances on "Kung Fu," "La Femme Nikita," "Veronica's Closet," and "Wish You Were Here." She also played a recurring role on "The District," and a multiple-episode supporting lead role on "Ally McBeal." She now resides in Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, Dagmara Dominczyk gets to play the plum female lead role of Mercedes, the stunning girlfriend of Edmond Dantes in "The Count of Monte Cristo."

Like Catherine Zeta-Jones before her, Dagmara appears on the screen a full-blown beauty and talent, and could just enjoy the same popularity that Zeta-Jones now has, only a few years after she got *her* big film break.

As her family name more than suggests, Dagmara was born in Poland. She moved to New York when she was only seven years old, She attended the High School for the Performing Arts, where she received the prestigious La Guardia Alumni Award for Best Actor.

Full scholarship

She then won a full scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University, and graduated in 1998 with a BFA in Acting. She again won top honors, including the John Arthur Kennedy Award for Acting, and the Andrew Carnegie Presidential Scholar honor.

As a leading lady at CMV, her roles included Tracy Lord in "The Philadelphia Story," Marie in "Woyzeck," the title role in "Medea," Susan in "The Heidi Chronicles," Helena in "Look Back in Anger," and Olivia in "Twelfth Night."

DOMINCZYK. Made acting debut right after college.

BACALSO. Fil-American talent stars in "Snow Dogs."

Pivotal role

Naturally, movie producers got very interested in this beautiful and gifted newcomer. She made her professional acting debut the very same year she graduated from college, understudying the pivotal role of Alice in the Broadway production of "Closer." She appeared more than a dozen times opposite Natasha Richardson, to unanimous critical praise.

In films, her first appearance was in "Rock Star." She is also in "They," which is scheduled for release this year.

When she was being considered for the role of Mercedes in "The Count of Monte Cristo," Dagmara instantly knew she could play the part well. She had read Alexandre Dumas' novel in school and "I loved the story, it is full of intrigue and romance, and is very smart.

Strength in sacrifice

"I especially liked the fact that Mercedes was depicted in the script as willing to make compromises, but seeing the strength in sacrifice. Also the fact that you see her going from being an 18-year-old, to the mother of a 16-year-old boy."

Dagmara was lucky to work in the movie with such outstanding film talents as director Kevin Reynolds and male leads Jim Caviezel, Guy Pearce and Richard Harris. They all see a long and bright future in films for this beautiful and talented newcomer.

SANCHEZ. Upbeat encounters.

Giselle . . .

(From page G3)

me to the Insular Hotel by 2:25 p.m.

"Since I had no more time to dress up, I rode the motorcycle in my bikini and got to Insular in time. My knees were shaking from trucks and buses that were disregarding the traffic flow and people in the streets were screaming since I was only wearing a two-piece bathing suit!"

Masscom graduate

Giselle is single-minded when it comes to her career. There was a time when she was doing a radio show on DZMM which was getting fantastic ratings so ABS-CBN offered her a TV show similar to "Balitang K." However, she turned down the offer because broadcast journalism was not her specialty, although she graduated from the UP College of Mass Communication magna cum laude. She decided instead to pursue her career as a comedienne, a decision that has served her well. Eventually, she gave up her radio show because she was getting more offers to do live concerts and had to keep absenting herself from her DZMM program.

Giselle has also stayed away from producing live shows because she feels performing is her strongest point, and worrying about ticket sales and other production details is not for her. She's only produced one show and it was in a small venue, the Republic of Malate.

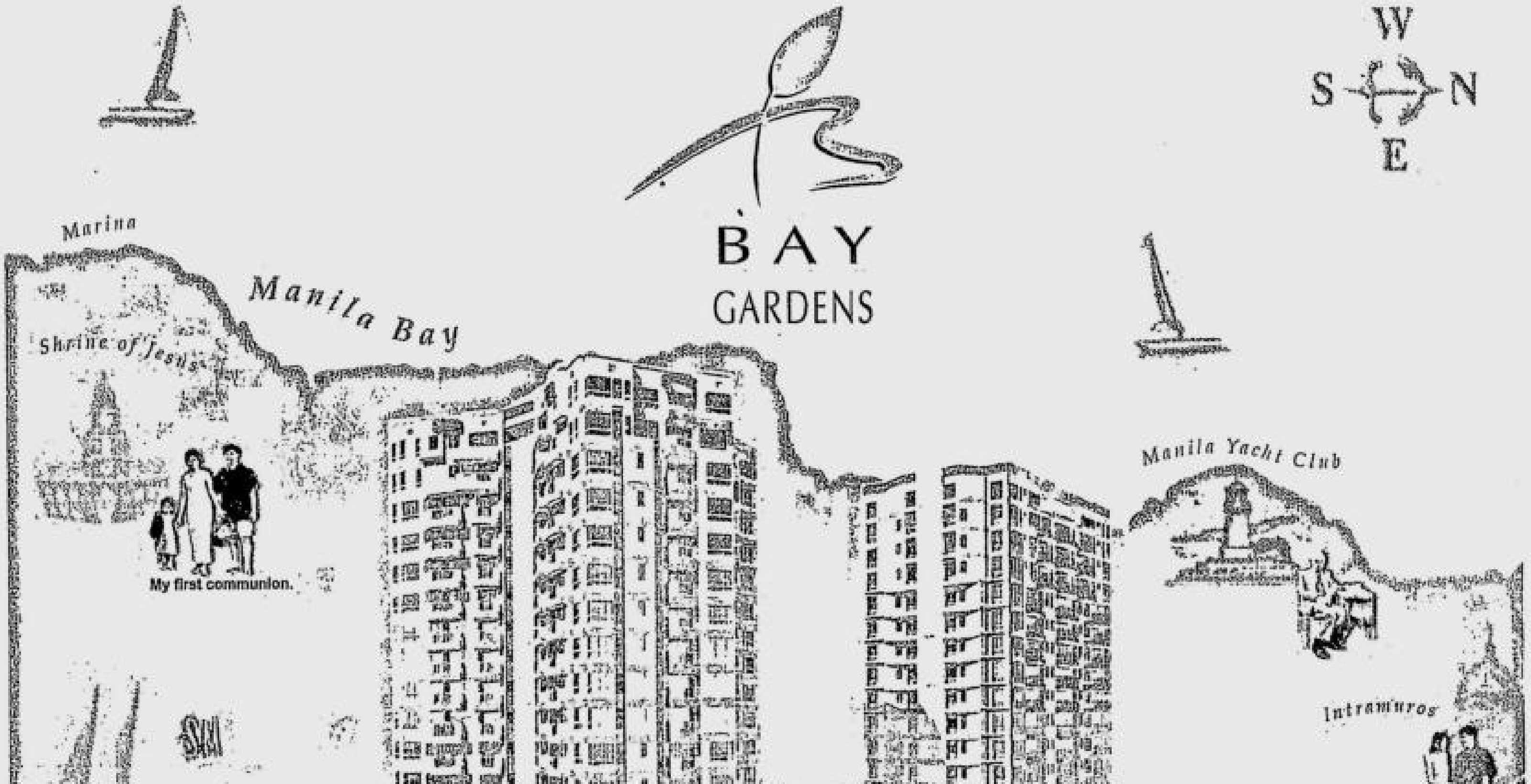
Doing naughty jokes, however, has its downside especially when there are dirty old men in the audience. She's had some unpleasant encounters with these spoilsports, like being mashed in some audience participation segments, but she just grins and dismisses these experiences as hazards of the trade. She's learned to be more defensive when she approaches the audience, though.

One-liners

Where does she get her repertoire of naughty one-liners? She says she keeps a notebook where she writes down ideas based on things she overhears, funny situations she observes, funny people she meets, or any idea that pops up when she's doing some routinary activity.

It also helps that this funny girl has a creative mind that never seems to stop working. We've met other comedians who are dour and somber offstage, but Giselle is always bubbling with energy, reacting to people around her and guffawing every five minutes.

Catch her at the Casino Filipino Parañaque and find out what we mean.



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The magnificent Porte Cochere fountain

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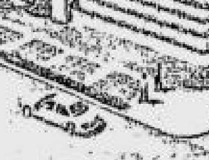

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- Miriam Softball Team Wins Page 10
- The Lunch Box Page 11

CUT, CUT, AND AWAY!

With a pair of super scissors, an ad man wins this year's top illustrator's contest

By Eline Santos

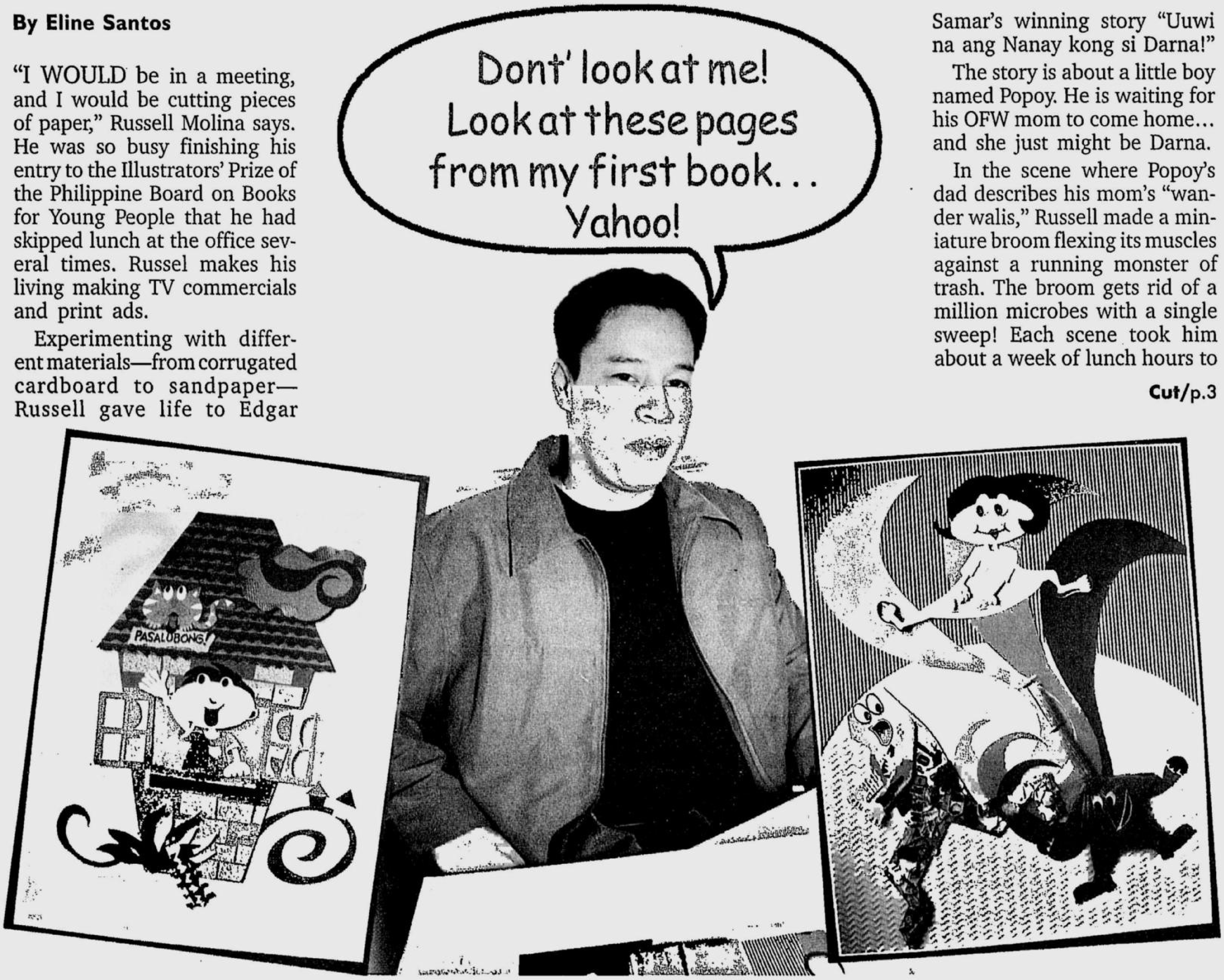
"I WOULD be in a meeting, and I would be cutting pieces of paper," Russell Molina says. He was so busy finishing his entry to the Illustrators' Prize of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People that he had skipped lunch at the office several times. Russel makes his living making TV commercials and print ads.

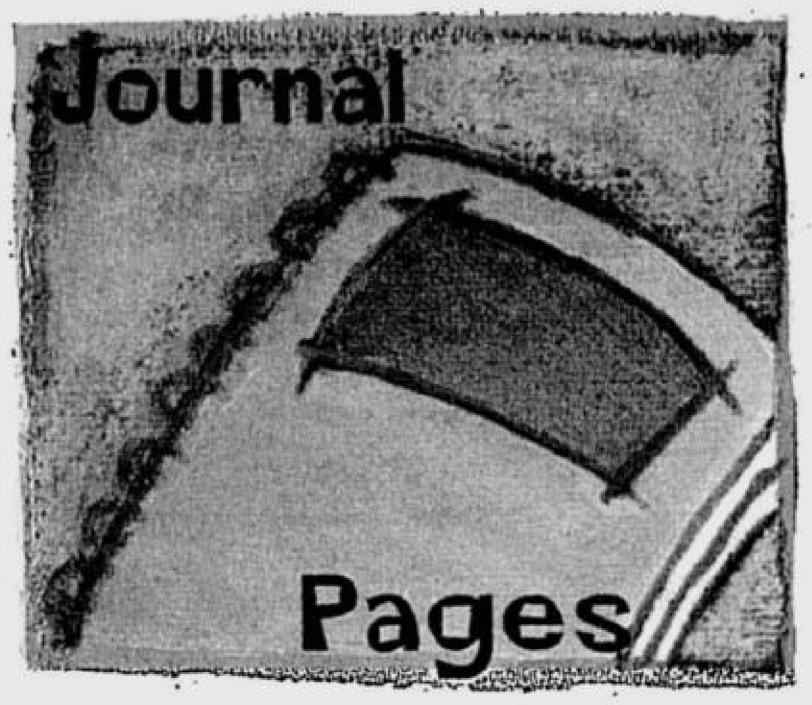
Experimenting with different materials—from corrugated cardboard to sandpaper—Russell gave life to Edgar Samar's winning story "Uuwi na ang Nanay kong si Darna!"

The story is about a little boy named Popoy. He is waiting for his OFW mom to come home... and she just might be Darna.

In the scene where Popoy's dad describes his mom's "wander walis," Russell made a miniature broom flexing its muscles against a running monster of trash. The broom gets rid of a million microbes with a single sweep! Each scene took him about a week of lunch hours to

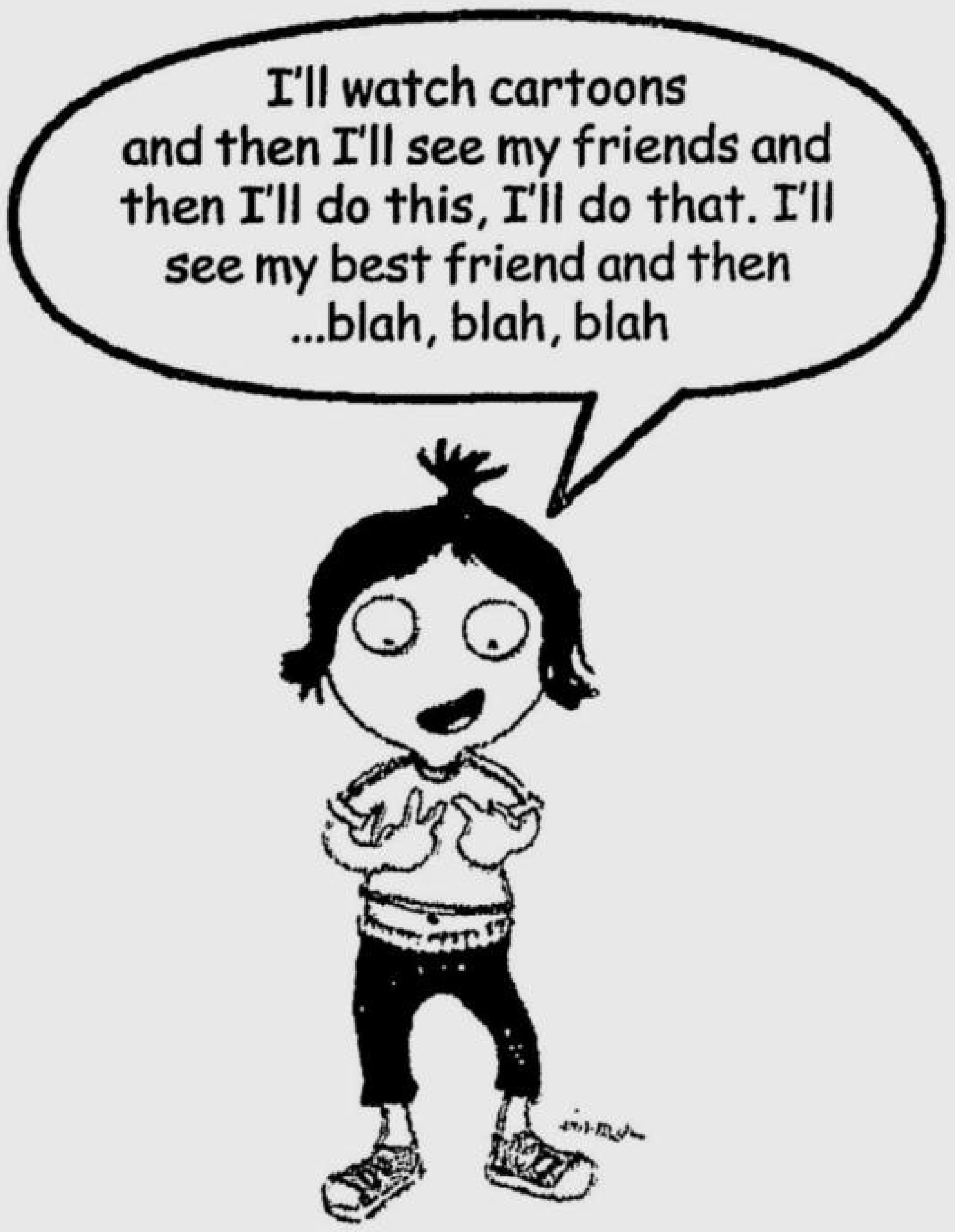
Cut/p.3


Dont' look at me! Look at these pages from my first book... Yahoo!
PASALUBONG!



Schoolmates

By Patria Anne S. David
OB Montessori, Las Piñas City


I'll watch cartoons and then I'll see my friends and then I'll do this, I'll do that. I'll see my best friend and then ...blah, blah, blah

IT'S summer vacation. No classes, no exams on many subjects and no notes. Now I can play with my friends. But I can't play with my classmates for months and my other classmates will transfer to other sections. Also my best friend, Henriette Trillanes, will transfer to other section.

I can't transfer because I can't wake up early. When you're in the morning class, you have to be awake by 6:45 a.m.! My mom put me in the afternoon session, so it's OK! That means I still can watch cartoons in the morning.

Some of my other classmates aren't transferring to other sections. That's good. Besides, I can always see Henriette in our field trips. I can also see her when I have to go to school early for other activities. Sometimes my best friend calls me and I know I will make new friends next school year.

My playmate, Jennifer Torres, is gonna be my schoolmate if she passes the exam. I hope she does. One of my neighbors is also a schoolmate. My *Ate* Patricia is also my schoolmate. That's why I know everything is going to be OK.

Sound Familiar ?

Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is **jl@inquirer.com.ph** Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

Open Letter

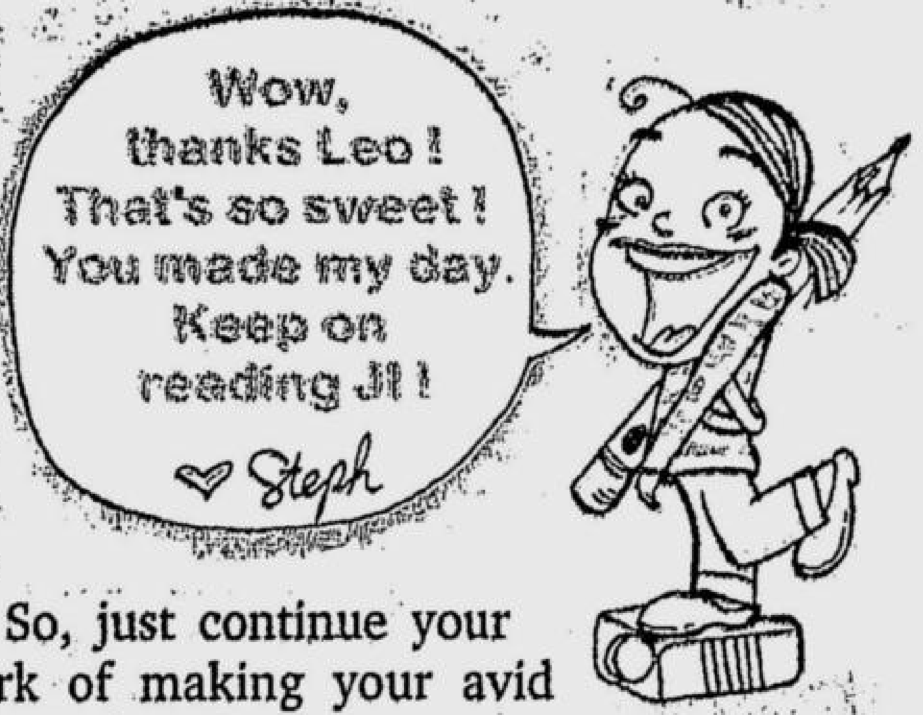
DEAR Poachers,

Please stop catching *dugongs* and whale sharks and the *pawikan*. They're getting fewer. Please listen.—**JOSHUA PATERNO**, 6, Quezon City

JI Fan

DEAR Editor,

Reading JUNIOR INQUIRER every Saturday has become a habit. I've been reading your paper for so long. I admire all the articles published on your kiddie mag. I do love to read the fiction manuscripts written by talented students. Also, I do love to see how Steph Bravo illustrates for JI. I really appreciate how you bring joy to kids out there in a simple way. So, just continue your good work of making your avid readers smile. Reading your paper is a great way of spending the weekend in a more productive way.—**LEO MARVIN P. BALANTE**, 13, Pateros Catholic School


Wow, thanks Leo! That's so sweet! You made my day. Keep on reading JI!
Steph

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CUT, CUT, AND AWAY!

(from page1)

make (doesn't his tummy complain?).

From writer to visual artist

Russell is not a professional with a fine arts degree. He took up communication arts in UPLB and first joined PBBY's contest as a writer. Today he is creative director for an advertising agency called Publicis-AMA. His story "Ang Lumang Kumot ni Lola" was among the finalists for the PBBY Salanga Writer's Prize in 1998.

"My *Lola* is like that. Lolas collect memories," he says, which is what the old blanket in the story is all about.

He continues to write and may have another children's book out in September. But even before being a published author, Russell was writing for the theater group Bata-Batuta.

For three years, Russell not only wrote scripts for the family of Alice Kamatis, Cardong Kayod, and Taktalaok. He composed songs and directed the plays as well.

Jack-of-all-trades

He can write. He can make songs. He can direct. Is he a super-being like Popoy's mama Darna?

"My passion is to create things. I can't see my life without creating. It's the nearest thing to giving birth, to create something dear to you.

"One time I was at the grocery, and the woman there was humming a jingle I had made," he relates. "You get to touch people you don't know. I'm here (he says pointing to his head), in her mind."

Hmmm... does that also explain his storytelling and magic tricks?

"Simple magic tricks *lang*," he clarifies, all the better to introduce the story to kids.

Doing work for kids enables him "to be childlike again."

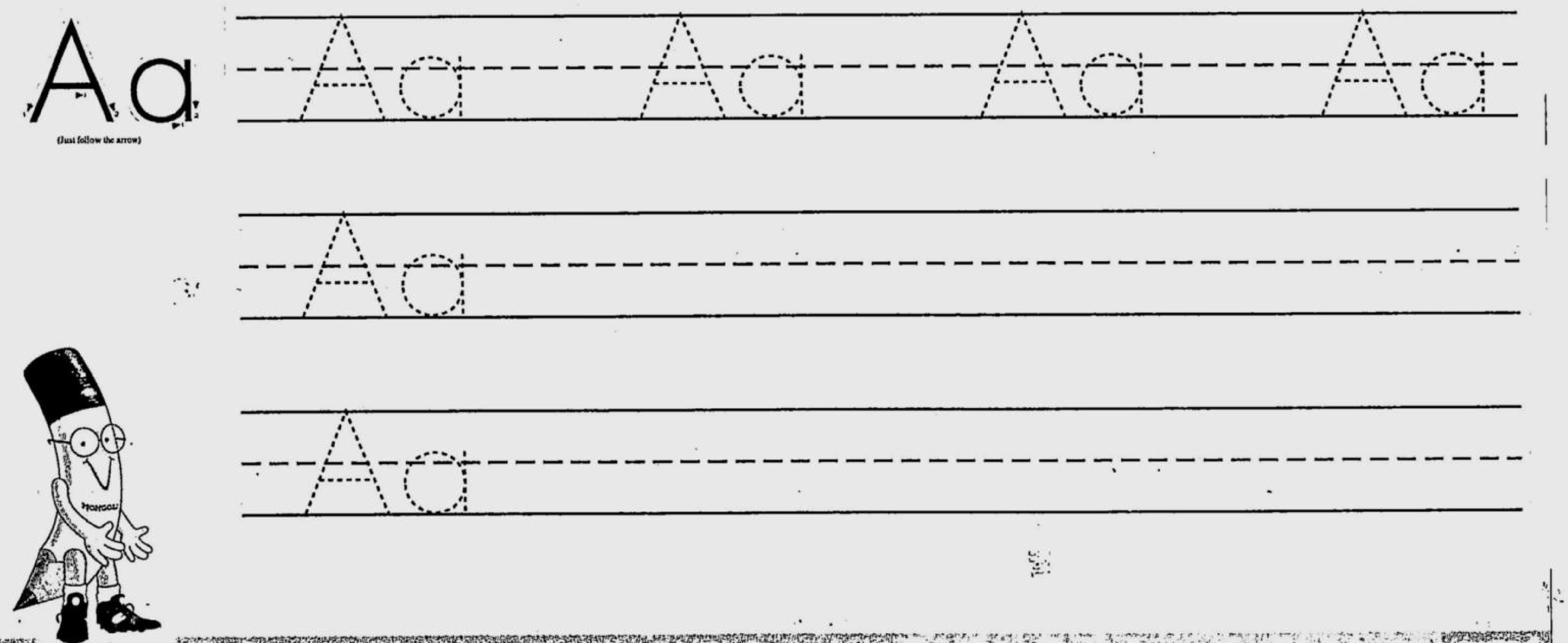
"Find the kid in you. It's refreshing," he advises. *"Masarap maging bata."*

Is that how he won?

Russell thinks it's because his entry is in "a relatively new medium... out-of-the-box... not ordinary." With passion, creativity and the help of super scissors, Russell cut the competition down to size.

THIS WRITING DRILL GIVES YOUR KIDS AN "A".

Buy the Mongol for Kids pencil below and let them make their mark.



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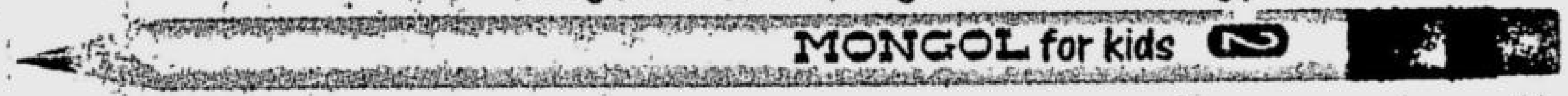

Choose from two pencil sizes, the regular and the new Mongol for Kids. The new Mongol for Kids is available in all National Bookstores, Expressions, Makro stores, ShoeMart outlets and other school & office supply stores.

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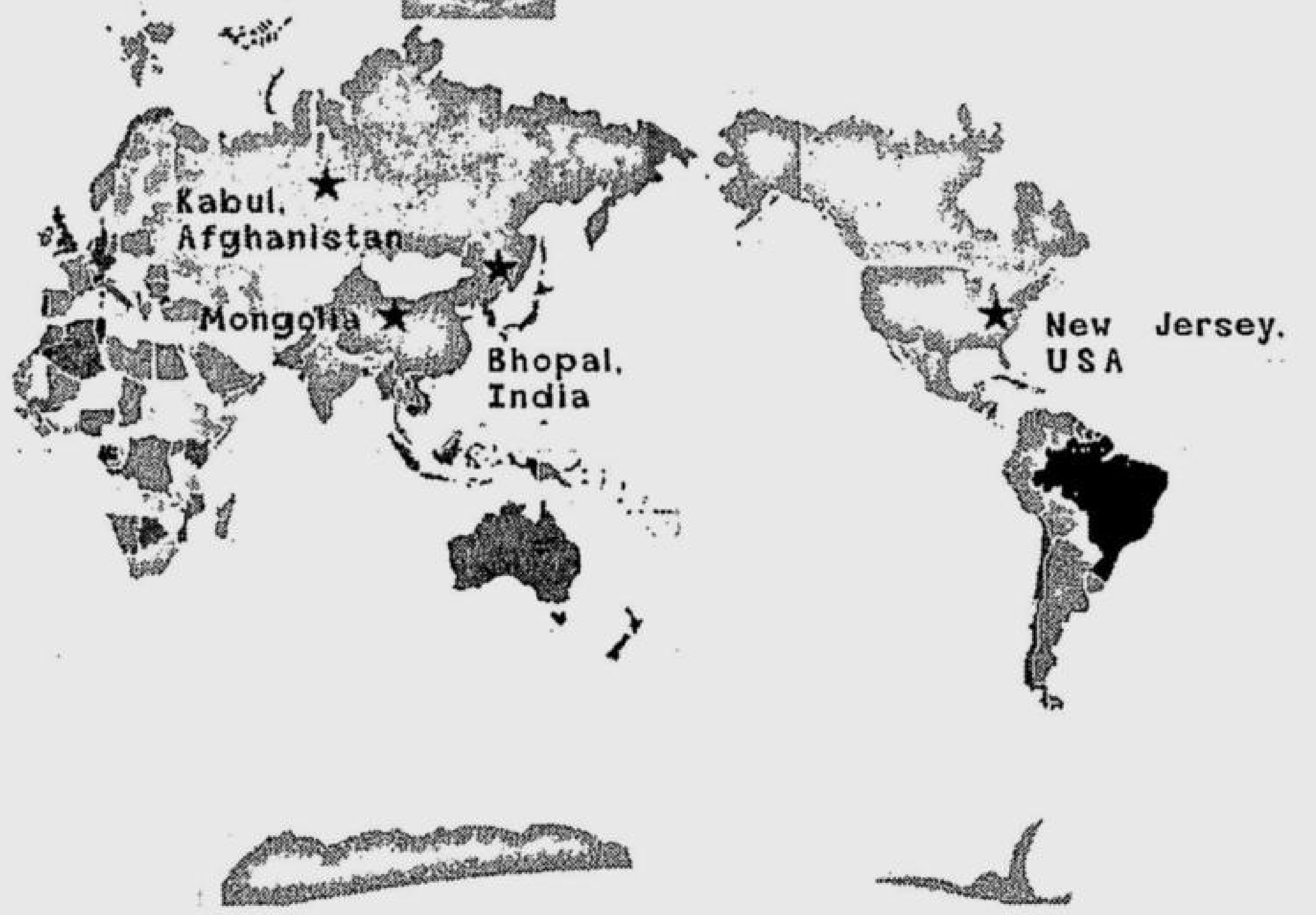
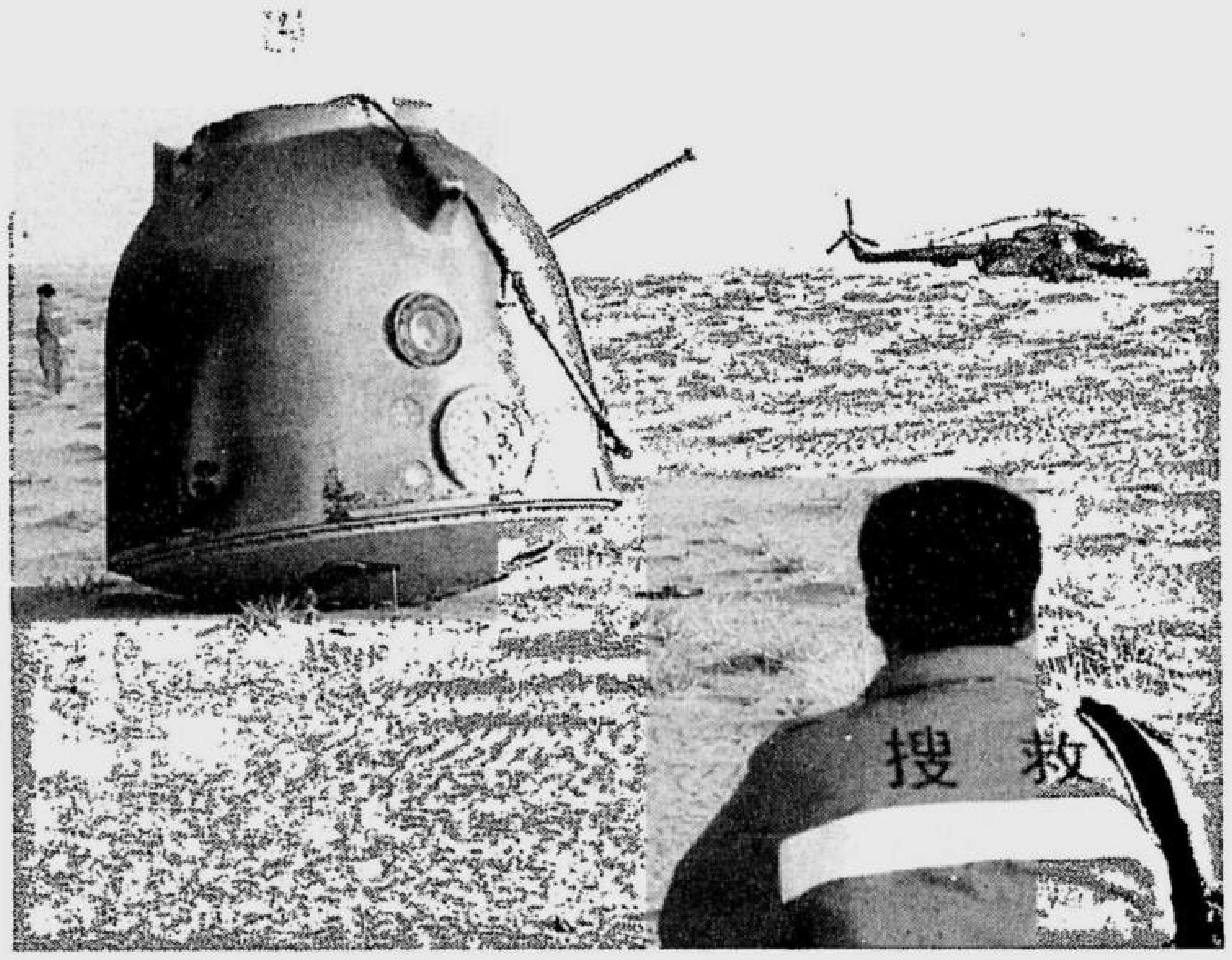
World Scope





China Races to Space

A SCIENTIFIC personnel approaches the cabin of China's third unmanned spaceship "Shenzhou III" on the area in the central Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The spaceship returned to Earth April 1 and was pronounced "technically suitable for astronauts," the Chinese government said. This is the latest step in its patriotism-streaked effort to become the third nation to put people in space. ***AP***

Hooray for Afghan Women!

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF of Dawn Magazine, Lailoma Ahmadi, right, discusses page layout with editor Doud Naheemi at their main office in Kabul. Just six months after the fall of the hardline Taliban regime, the magazine will feature pictures of women without their *burqa* (a garment covering women's bodies and faces) and have articles about fashion, society, politics and other issues of interest to women. Under the Taliban regime, women had very limited rights and weren't even allowed to go to school, much less show their faces outside a *burqa*. ***AP***

Festival Treat

A MONKEY shares a piece of bread with a puppy in Bhopal. The puppy is covered with paints from Holi, the Indian festival of colors, which was observed across India on March 31. ***AP***

Pet Parents' Support

GRIEVING dog owner Karen Rand sits next to the cage of her late Portuguese water dog, Sophie, with photos of the family pet at her home in Parsippany, New Jersey. Rand and her husband, Bruce, attend sessions of a support group for grieving pet owners. Sophie died last November after 10 years in the family. Such groups are common in the US and other countries where pets are considered part of the family ***AP***

SM
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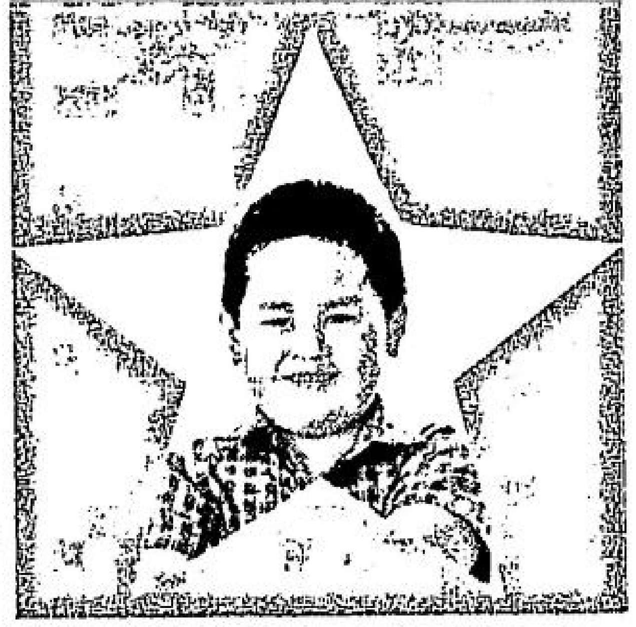
SM STAR CLUB 2002

Who will be this year's winning stars?

The search is on !!!



- Contest is open to all cute, smart, talented, charming, and amateur Filipino boys and girls aged between 4 to 7 years old.
- *Must be articulate in English and/or Filipino.*
- Register at the Administration Office (c/o the Marketing Department) at any of the following SM Supermalls:
  - SM City North EDSA
  - SM Centerpoint
  - SM Megamall
  - SM Southmall
  - SM City Bacoor
  - SM City Fairview
  - SM City Manila
  - SM City Pampanga
  - SM Supercenter Sucat
  - SM City Cebu
  - SM City Iloilo
  - SM City Davao
- Applicants must submit the following requirements:
  - 1 3R colored full-body photo
  - 1 3R colored close-up photo
  - 1 photocopy of valid school I.D. with picture
  - 1 photocopy of Birth Certificate
- Deadline for submission of entries is on April 15, 2002.

- Applicants must attend any of the following screening dates, wherein 12 finalists (6 boys and 6 girls) will be chosen by a screening committee:
  April 18, 2002 – SM City North Edsa
  April 19, 2002 – SM City Pampanga
  April 20, 2002 – SM Southmall

NOTE: *Those who pass the initial screening will be notified (through phone call) to attend the Final Screening*

April 22, 2002 – SM City Manila (Final Screening)
April 24-25, 2002– SM City Cebu (Prelims & Final)
April 26-27, 2002– SM City Iloilo (Prelims & Final)
April 29-30, 2002– SM City Davao (Prelims & Final)

- Grand Finals will be held on:
  May 17, 2002 – SM City Cebu
  May 19, 2002 – SM City Davao
  May 25, 2002 – SM City Iloilo
  May 31, 2002 – SM Megamall
- Finalists will be showcased via a choreographed fashion and talent program.
- Finalists will be judged based on the following criteria:

Charm	30%
Wit	30%
Talent	20%
Intelligence	20%
TOTAL	100%

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JUNIORINQUIRER

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2002

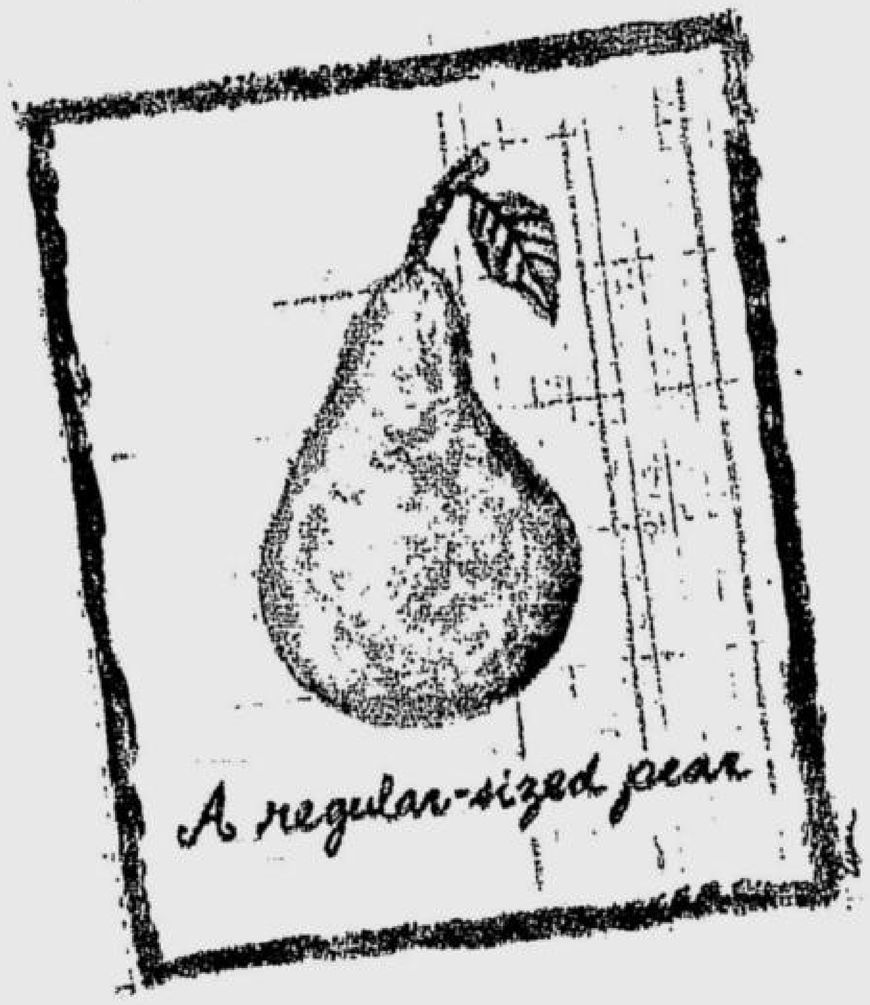
3 Poems from Filipinos in America

The Pear Tree

(Before September 11, 2001)

by Tala Kernan, then 6

A girl was walking in the woods.
She found a pear tree.
She picked one pear.
It screamed:
"Pick someone your size!"



'Going on 70'

For my mom

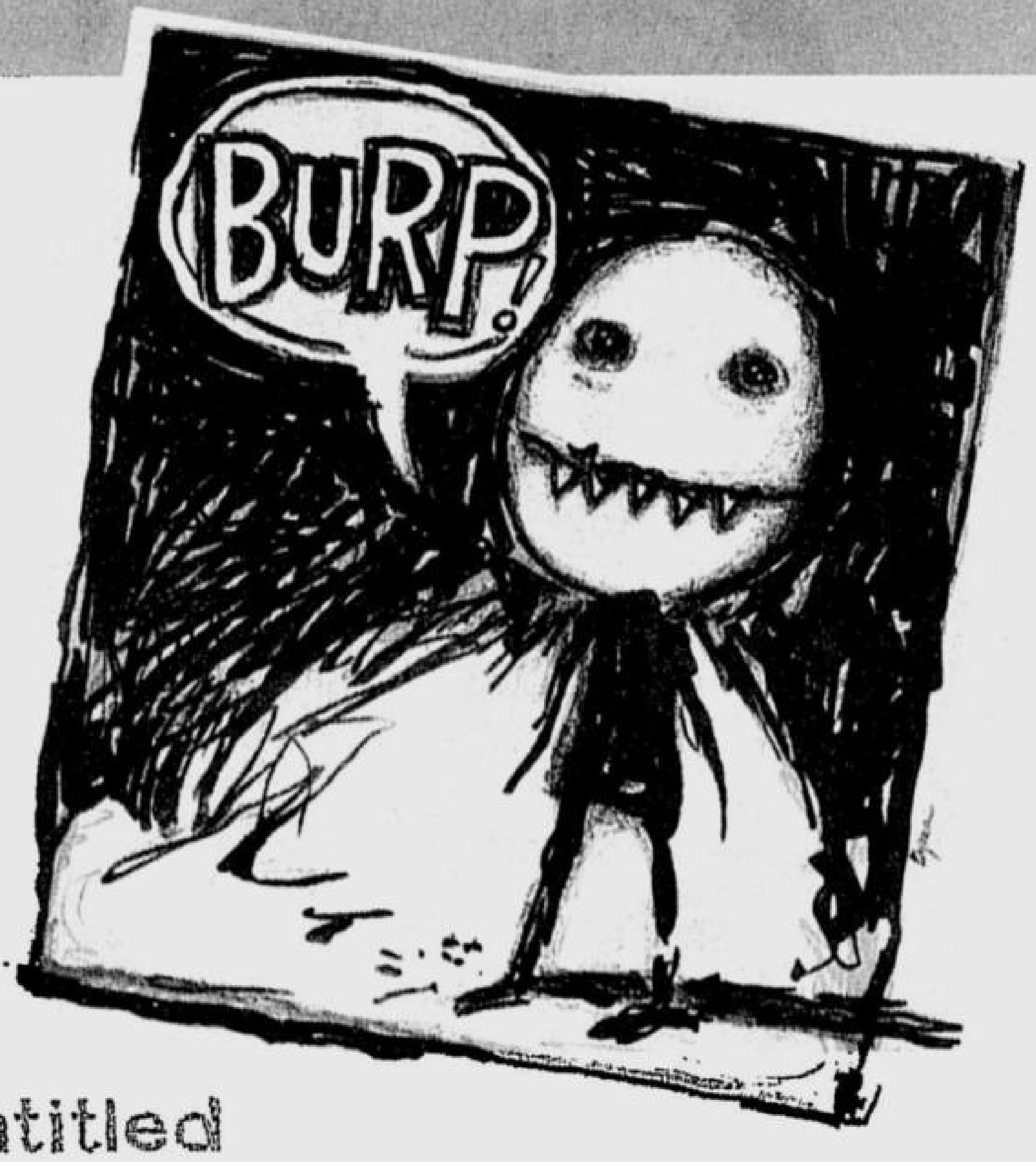
By Alberto Florentino, 70

When I was 6
I woke one day
To find a white hole in the sky
Where stood before
Our maple tree.
I ran to my mom to cry.

Last month
I woke to find a black hole in the sky
Where stood before
Two towers tall and proud
As two sequoias.
I am 70
To whom do I run
To cry on?

FOR
or
By
KIDS

art by Lyra A. Garcellano



Untitled

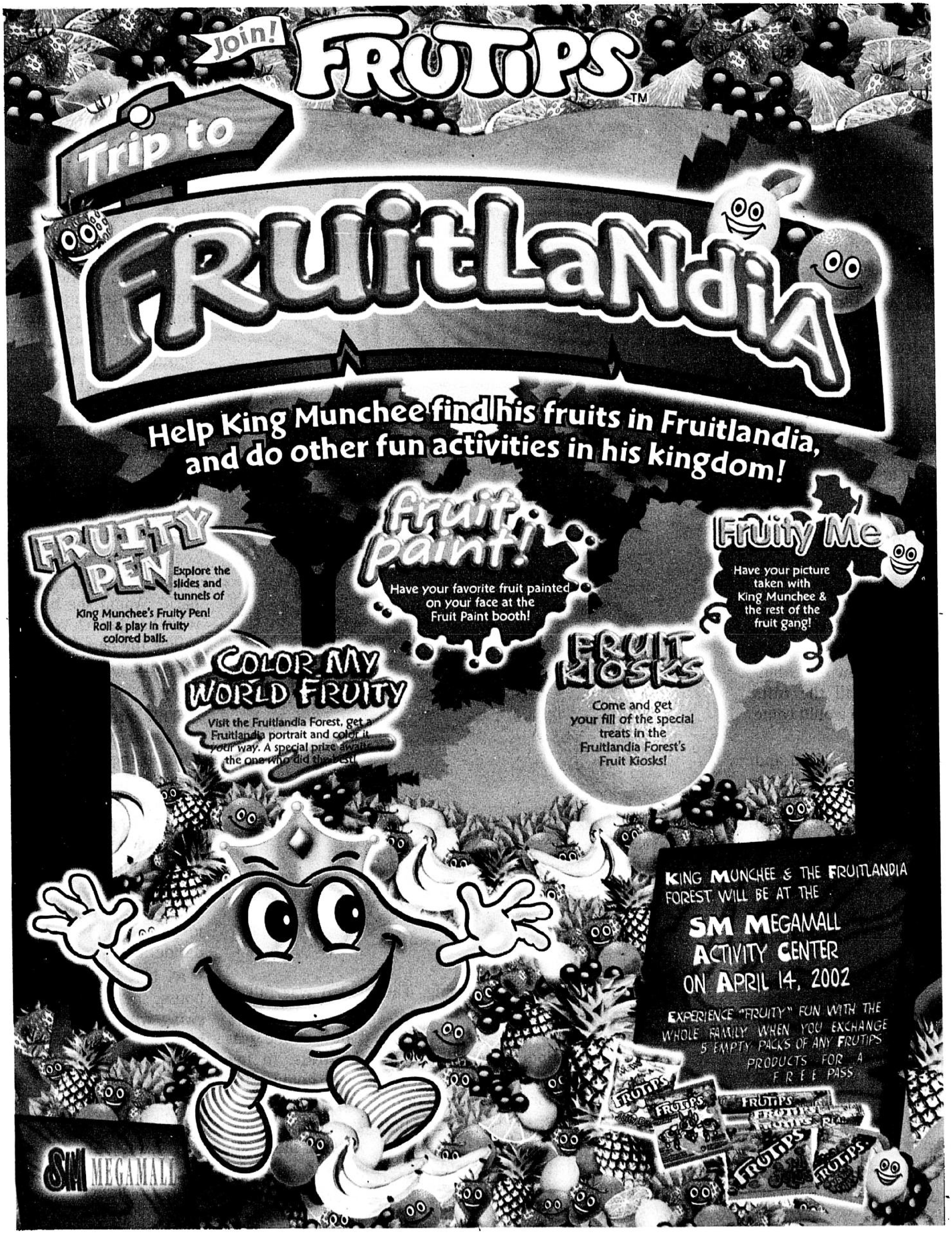
(During September 11, 2001)

by Tala Kernan, then 8

Hungerr!!!
I am the head who eats only bodies,
I live in a chain of port-o-potties.
I'm hungry right now,
Man-bodies seem fine.
"Mmm, this one is yummy."
Oops! It's mine!

*Sisters **Amihan**, 12, and **Tala** Kernan, 10, are Filipino Americans. Their grandfather, **Alberto**, is a renowned Filipino playwright who is now based in the US. He sent his and his grandkids' works for publication in JI "for the lost ones on "ground zero" Lower Manhattan, Pentagon, and Pennsylvania and for the bereaved families and nations of the world."*

See Amihan's story on Page 8.



Trip to FRUITLANDIA

Help King Munchee find his fruits in Fruitlandia, and do other fun activities in his kingdom!

FRUITY PEN

Explore the slides and tunnels of King Munchee's Fruity Pen! Roll & play in fruity colored balls.

fruit paint!

Have your favorite fruit painted on your face at the Fruit Paint booth!

Fruity Me

Have your picture taken with King Munchee & the rest of the fruit gang!

COLOR MY WORLD FRUITY

Visit the Fruitlandia Forest, get a Fruitlandia portrait and color it your way. A special prize awaits the one who did the best!

FRUIT KIOSKS

Come and get your fill of the special treats in the Fruitlandia Forest's Fruit Kiosks!

KING MUNCHEE & THE FRUITLANDIA FOREST WILL BE AT THE

SM MEGAMALL ACTIVITY CENTER ON APRIL 14, 2002

EXPERIENCE "FRUITY" FUN WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY WHEN YOU EXCHANGE 5 EMPTY PACKS OF ANY FRUTIPS PRODUCTS FOR A FREE PASS.

Dandelion

Lilly's mom had passed away. But she was still alive in Lilly's heart

Story by Amihan Kernan, then 8
Art by Lyra Abueg Garcellano

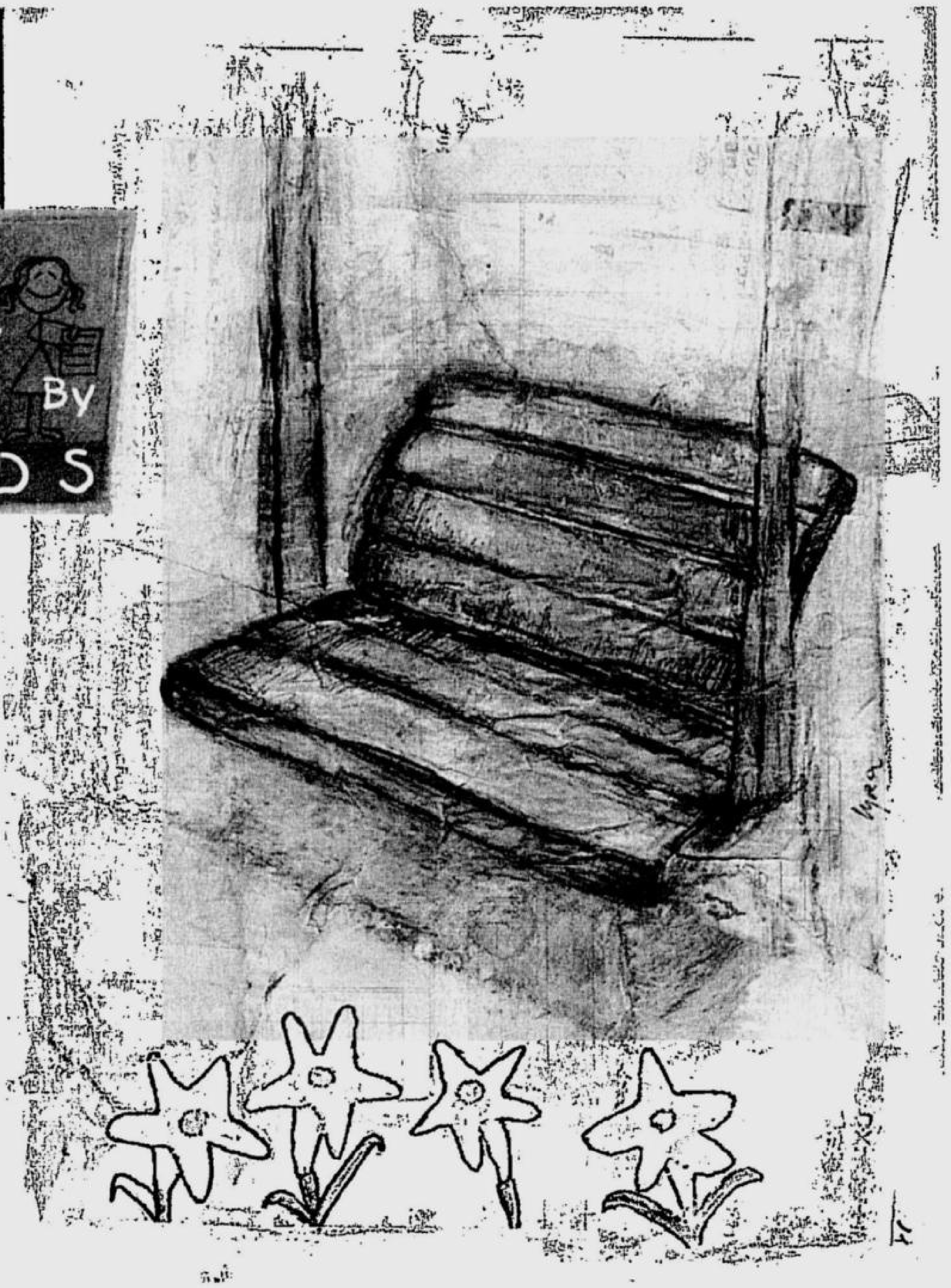
ONE sunny morning Lilly woke up. She was planning on playing on the tire swing her Dad had built for her. He had made it out of an old tire he found at the dump.

When Lilly walked out the door, she found the yard full of dandelion seeds.

Lilly thought of one clear night when she sat on the porch swing with her Mom. Her Mom said that if you blew on a dandelion seed and all the tufts came off, your wish would come true.

Now her mom was dead and Lilly was living in their house with her Dad and two cats. What Lilly wanted most was to see her Mom again. Lilly had photos of her Mom, but didn't satisfy her. She wanted to see her mother again.

Lilly walked around the garden and picked a perfect dandelion seed. She closed her eyes, took a deep breath, and with all of her heart whispered her wish: "I wish so much to see my Mom again." She blew hard on the dandelion seed and all the little tufts flew off and floated over the garden.



THEN Lilly stood still, really still. All the colors around her started blending into each other. The sky turned a deep shade of purple-blue.

Minutes later, the colors began to clear up. She found herself staring at her Mom sitting on the porch swing, reading a book.

Lilly looked around her. The garden was different. No tire swing. The garden was full of flowers.

Lilly looked down. She was still in her old dress. In her hand she was still holding the dandelion stem.

"Lilly honey," her Mom called out. "Come sit with me!" she said, scooting over to make room for her.

Lilly ran to her Mom, skipping the steps up to the porch. She sat on the porch swing and leaned her head on her Mom's shoulder.

She started to think of what had just happened. She had traveled through time! Here she was, sitting on the porch swing beside her Mom!

Where was Daddy? What would he think? Would he be looking for her? And call a search party to find her?

How she was going to get back? Would she be stuck here with her Mom? Was she going to live the past few years of her life with Mom all over again?

AFTER sitting a few minutes with her Mom, Lilly walked back to the garden and picked another dandelion seed. Again she closed her eyes, took a deep breath, blew hard, and wished she could go back to her Dad.

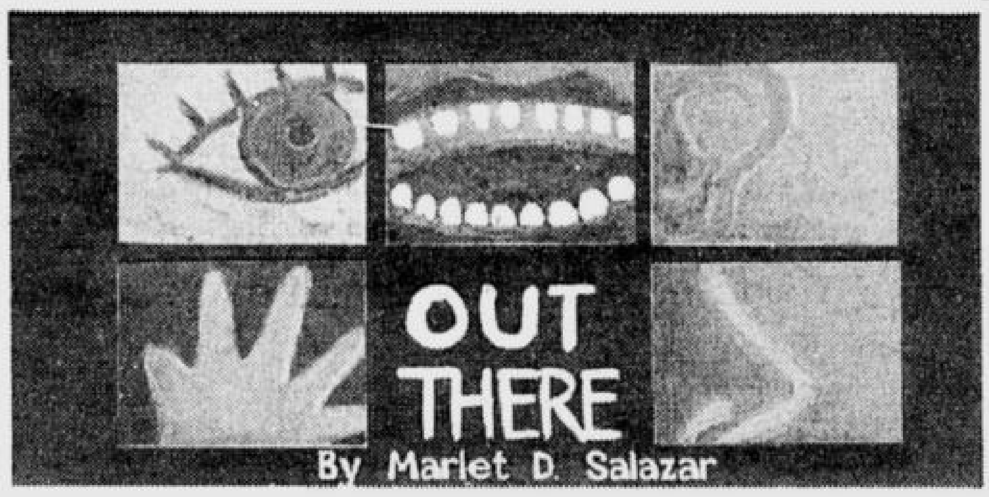
The colors became blurred. In a minute or two she was back in her own time, standing in the same place, holding the dandelion stem.

As Lilly walked back to her house, she glanced at the porch swing where she and her Mom had sat together for a moment.

The porch swing was empty.

Then Lilly knew her life had changed. Now she has the power to travel back in time, to visit her mom.

All she had to do was wish for it.



By Marlet D. Salazar

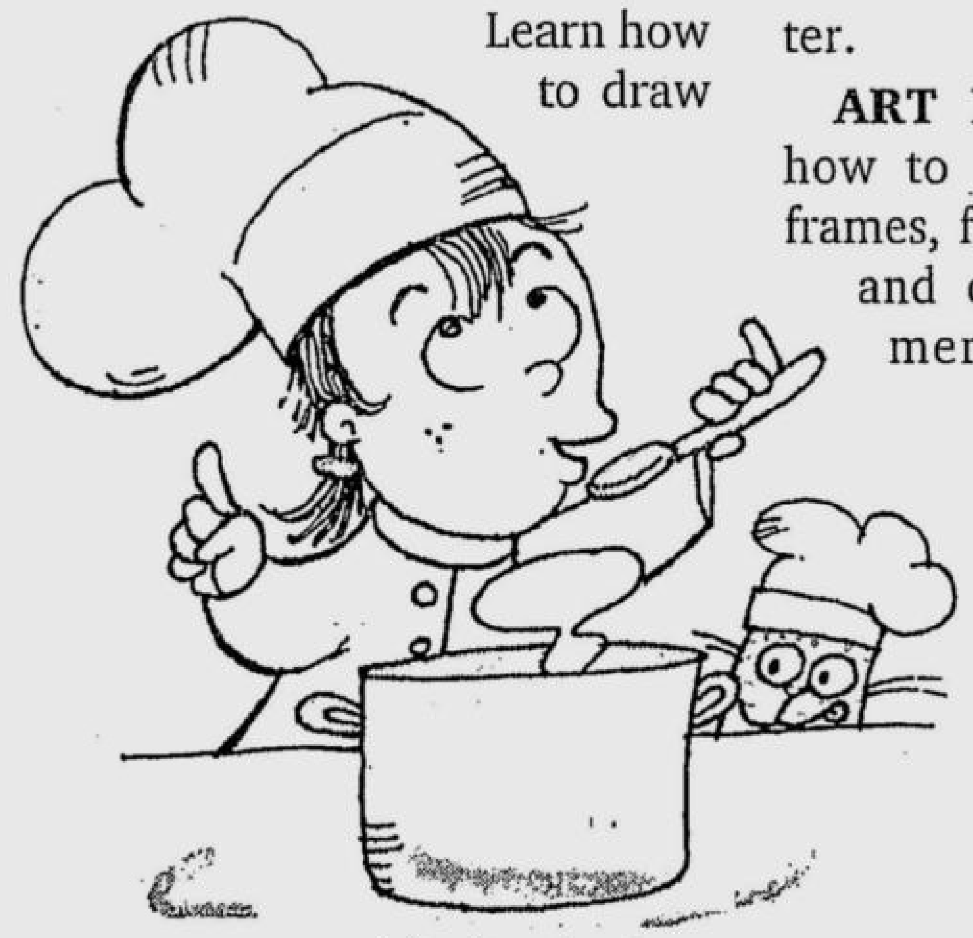
Got something for Out There? Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

SUMMER WORKSHOPS

YAHOO! No more classes! No more books! No more bleep-bleep-bleep-bleep-bleep. Hehe. It's summertime! The season when you can do absolutely nothing! But, uh-oh, spoken too soon. Metro Manila is crawling with summer classes and workshops for kids! Think you're the type to attend one? Check out the list below. Otherwise, it's daydreaming sessions for you!

KITCHEN CAMP. The San Miguel Culinary Center will hold hands-on cooking classes for kids 8-12 years old. To be held at the San Miguel Culinary Center, Eagle corner Legazpi St., Bo. Ugong, Pasig City. For inquires call 671-9876 up to 91 local 402, 404, 405.

CARICATURE. Learn how to draw faces, expressions, and body movements. Workshop starts tomorrow and on April 28 at Earthlite 4th Flr. COD Department Store Bldg., Cubao, Quezon City. For info call up 417-1521, 455-5245, 0916-4875463.



CARTOON. Cartoonists Tonton Young of the famed comics "Pupung," Rene Aranda, and Alex Young will hold a summer cartoon workshop for kids 5-16 years old. They will teach advanced cartoon-ing and drawing techniques. It will be held at 2/F Shangri-La Mall, Manda-luyong City. For details call up 727-1573, 0917-9499502.

FREE ART WORKSHOP. Join Faber Castell's free art workshop open to kids 7-11 years old. Interested participants should pre-register at 361-7391 to 92 on weekdays at 8a.m.-5 p.m. Materials will be provided. Class schedules are: April 16-17 SM Megamall Atrium A; April 30-May 2 SM City Manila Entertainment Plaza; May 14-15 SM Southmall Activity Center; and May 28-29 SM Fairview Activity Center.

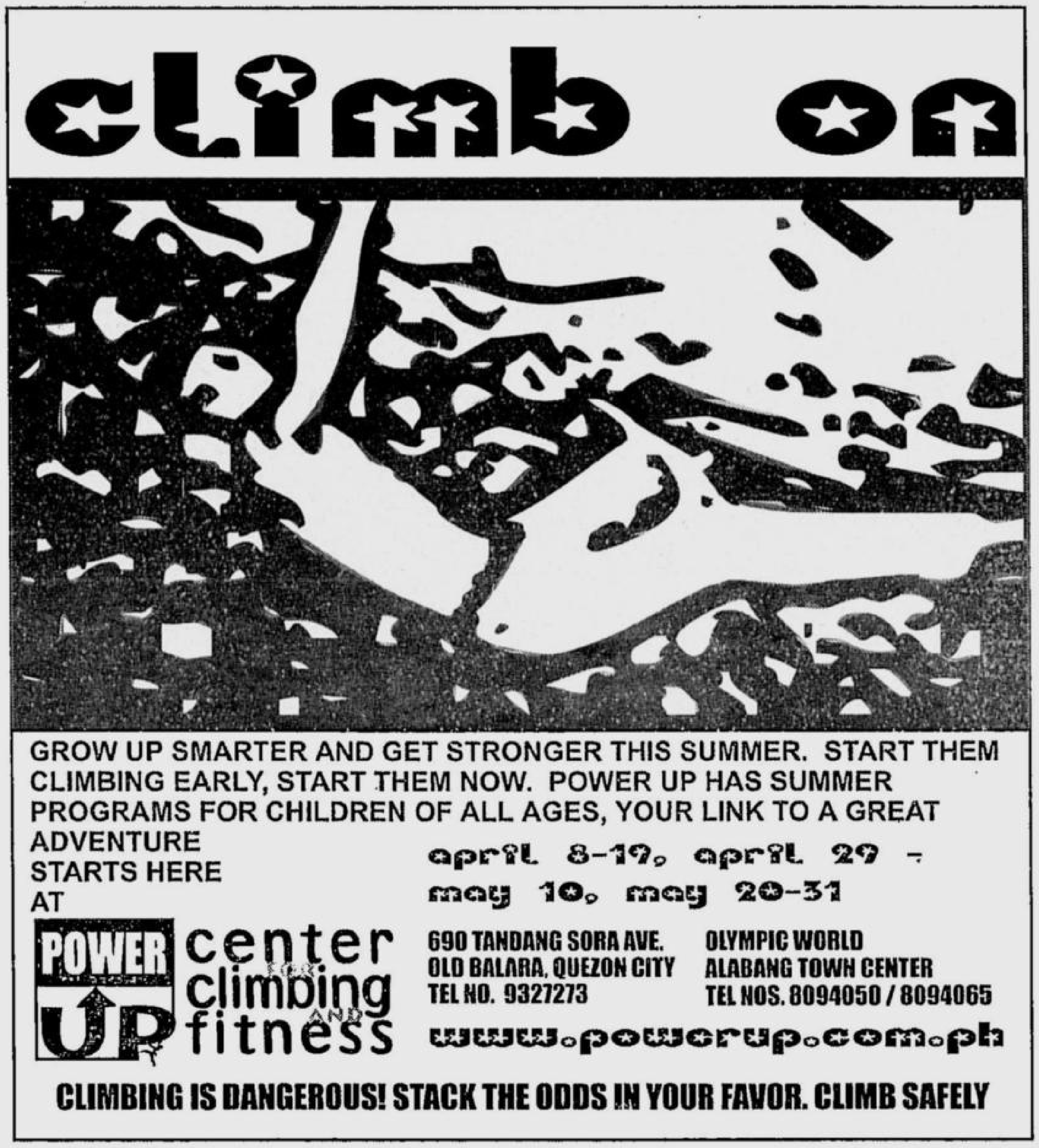
ART PACK. Learn how to make picture frames, fridge magnets and creative ornaments for your house. Learn animation drawing too. Workshop will be held at True Value at Rockwell Makati City. For inquiries call up 899-1985, 895-2318, 0917-7934229. Classes start on April 15.

CAMP CRICKET. Boys and girls 7-14 are invited to join Camp Cricket at the Boy Scout Camp, UP Los Baños. Learn survival skills, go hiking, field trips, swimming, rock climbing, rappelling, outdoor games, arts and crafts, cooking, stargazing and trolley adventure. Call up 726-8506, 0917-4639446, 0917-8421574.

SINGING LESSONS. Ryan Cayabyab The Music Studio offers Music and Movement for children ages 3-7, vocal performance for 14-year-olds and above, and ensemble singing for kids. For more info call up 843-2874, 844-3330 or drop by the studio at T-1B Sunvar Plaza, Pasay Road corner Amorsolo St., Makati City.

RYAN CAYABYAB

SWIMMING. Join the Bert Lozada Swim School. There will be two-week swim courses until June 14 in more than 30 venues nationwide. Students can take any of four courses depending on the skill level: water safety, basic course, advanced course and competitive course. For details and venues call 563-5532



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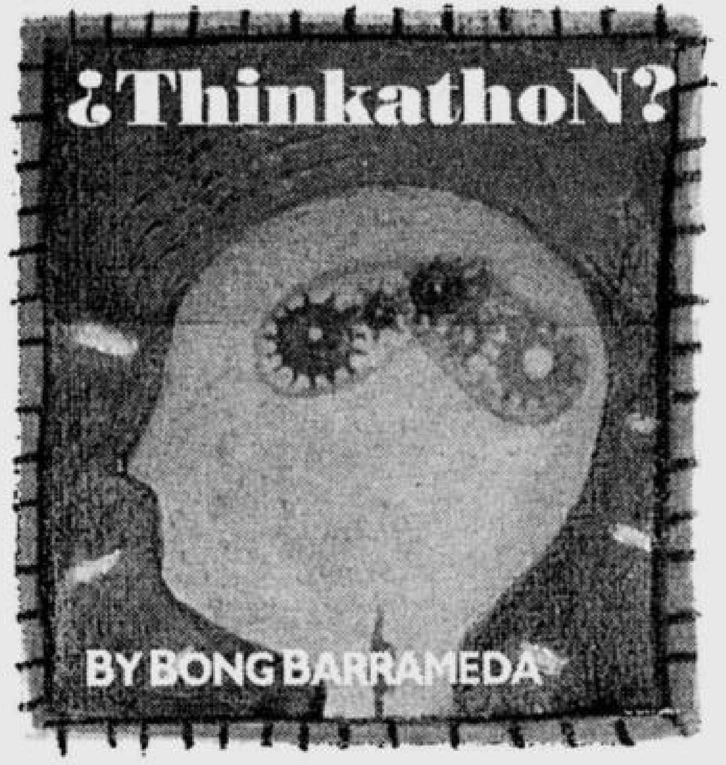


Looking for a Hero

Several heroes, in fact, from around the world and across the ages. To get that 'heroic' feel, match each famous person of legendary courage and deed with the country he or she was born in.

____1.Alexander the Great
____2.Genghis Khan
____3.Saladin
____4.El Cid
____5.William Wallace
____6.William Tell
____7.Joan of Arc
____8.Horatio Nelson
____9.Giuseppe Garibaldi
____10.Simon Bolivar
____11.Paul Revere
____12.Manfred von Richthofen
____13.Mahatma Gandhi
____14.Ho Chi Minh
____15.Nelson Mandela

A. Spain
B. England
C. Scotland
D. Germany
E. Venezuela
F. Switzerland
G. Macedonia
H. United States
I. Iraq
J. India
K. France
L. Vietnam
M. Italy
N. South Africa
O. Mongolia

Answers :

1.G
2.O
3.I
4.A
5.C
6.F
7.K
8.B
9.M
10.E
11.H
12.D
13.J
14.L
15.N

Ratings :

superbrain !
11-2

excellent !
8 - 10

good !
5 - 9

CAMPUS NEWS

Any news from YOUR SCHOOL?

Young campus journalists can fax their typewritten articles to JI at 897-4793 up to 94. Include your name, school and contact number and be sure to write ATTENTION: JUNIOR INQUIRER on top of your article. See YOUR news articles on the Junior Inquirer!

CONGRATS to the Miriam Grade School Softball Team!

Miriam Grade School Varsity Softball Team are the Champions!

THE MIRIAM College Grade School Varsity Softball Team emerged champions in the Girl's Elementary Division of the recently concluded 2001-2002 National Capital Region-PONY Baseball/Softball Tournament held at the Ateneo High School fields.

Together with Coaches Alex Estipular, Duque Zuluaga and Karin Hollnsteiner, the 16 fifth, sixth, and seventh-graders who make up the team entered the finals with a 5 win-1 loss record. They won the championship game versus Woodrose School on Sunday, Feb. 25, 2002 with a final score of 19-8. The Poveda PPA tigers took 3rd place.

Miriam fifth-grader Alex Zuluaga was voted Most Valuable Player and Best Pitcher of the division, while Eleanna Tan was chosen as one of the two Homerun Queens.

The softball varsity team at Miriam Grade School was revived only this year. It started as an extra-curricular softball club in school year 2000-2001 with about 15 members. The girls trained hard under former Philippine Blue Girl and Miriam College Faculty member Cora Reyes.

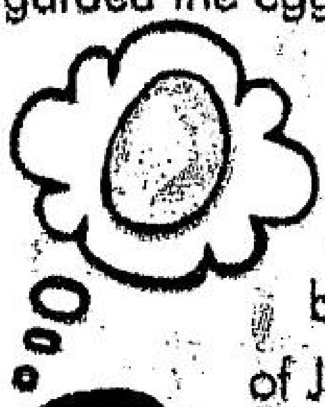
The entire Miriam College community, parents, and alumni are truly proud of how the varsity players have come a long way in such a short time. So to the Miriam Grade School Varsity Softball Team, congratulations! ***Miriam College Grade School***

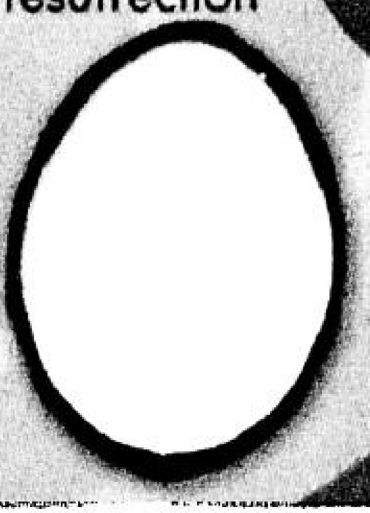
THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

Why an Egg on Easter?

Ever wonder where the Easter Egg originated? Long before the first Easter Sunday, the Egyptians regarded the egg as a symbol of life. Christians then adopted the idea, and saw the egg as an appropriate symbol of the richness of life brought about by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

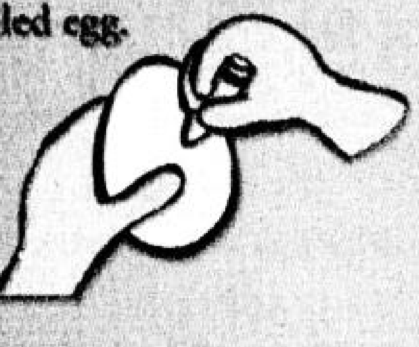


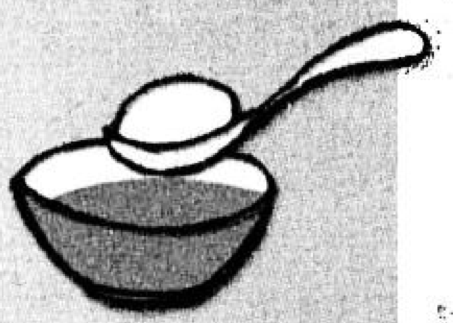

Decorate Me!

ANY TIME'S A GOOD TIME TO DECORATE SOME EGGS! HERE'S A FUN WAY TO DO IT!
I'M TRULY EGG-CITED!
Bernard in ultra-stylish egg costume

Art N Craft

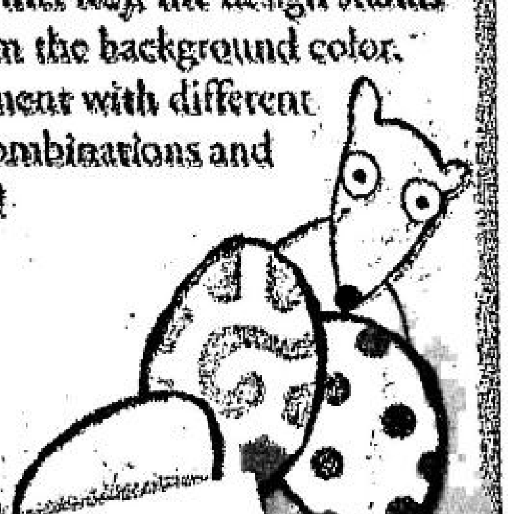
1. Use a crayon to draw designs on a hard-boiled egg.





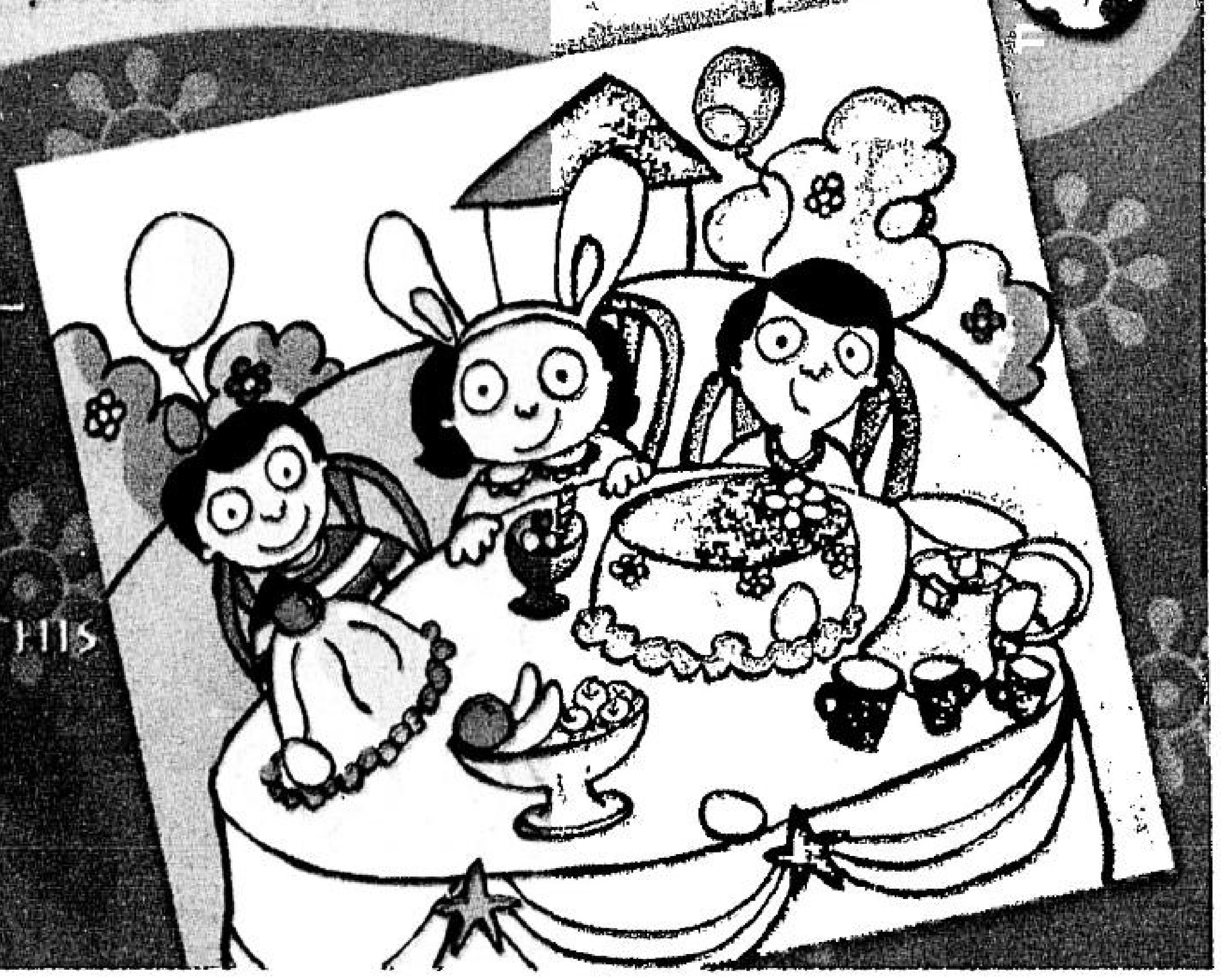
2. Mix a few drops of food color into 1/2 cup of boiling water and 1 tbsp. vinegar. Let it cool. Use a spoon to dip the egg into the color mixture until you get the shade you want.

3. The crayon wax should resist the dye. In this way the design stands out from the background color. Experiment with different color combinations and designs!



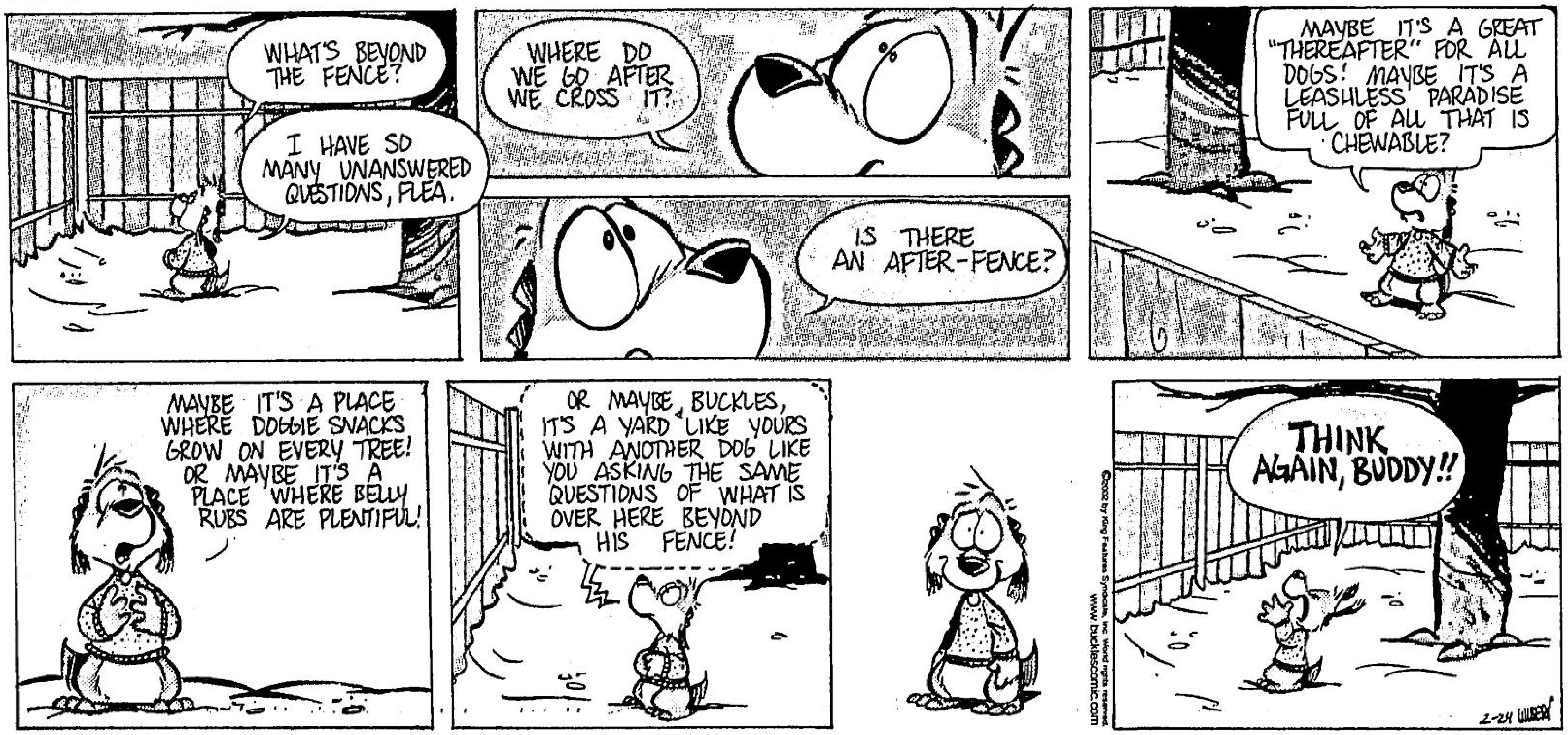
EASTER EGG HUNT

FIND SEVEN (7) EASTER EGGS HIDDEN IN THIS PICTURE!



BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


WHAT'S BEYOND THE FENCE?
I HAVE SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS, FLEA.
WHERE DO WE GO AFTER WE CROSS IT?
IS THERE AN AFTER-FENCE?
MAYBE IT'S A GREAT "THEREAFTER" FOR ALL DOGS! MAYBE IT'S A LEASHLESS PARADISE FULL OF ALL THAT IS CHEWABLE?
MAYBE IT'S A PLACE WHERE DOGGIE SNACKS GROW ON EVERY TREE! OR MAYBE IT'S A PLACE WHERE BELLY RUBS ARE PLENTIFUL!
OR MAYBE, BUCKLES, IT'S A YARD LIKE YOURS WITH ANOTHER DOG LIKE YOU ASKING THE SAME QUESTIONS OF WHAT IS OVER HERE BEYOND HIS FENCE!
THINK AGAIN, BUDDY!!
2-24 GILBERT

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